

# July

## Yard, Garden & Plant Tips

### Shrubs and trees

- Prune spring flowering shrubs by the 4th of July; these include dogwoods and azaleas.
- Chaste Tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*) blooms in July and is a good nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds.
- Did you know - Trees are nature's air conditioners; their shade helps reduce power usage from air conditioners
- Did you know - Well-placed trees are valuable plants, they improve appearance and save money.

### Perennials, annuals and bulbs

- Continue planting sunflowers weekly and you will have flowers until frost.
- Keep annual blooms picked to allow more blossoms to develop.
- Remove the flowers stalks from hostas as soon as they finish blooming.
- Deadhead roses when the petals fall. Cut back to a five-leaflet to encourage blooming.

### Fruits and vegetables

- Keep tomatoes pruned and staked.
- Garlic is ready when leaves have died back about one half.
- Tomatoes, peppers and eggplant slow down in hot dry weather; fertilize them lightly and soak them thoroughly with water.
- Immediately after harvesting lettuce, sweet corn, cantaloupe and broccoli, place in a sink filled with ice water to preserve taste and quality.

### Lawn

- Mow lawns at 2 ½ to 3 inches high to minimize heat damage.
- Cutting fescue lawns too closely can cause damage.
- Mow grass as soon as seed heads start to show.

### Houseplants

- Remember to remove dust from the leaves of your houseplants.
- Groom houseplants for the best appearance.

### Odds and ends

- Check for pests and diseases regularly.
- Mulch to conserve soil moisture.
- If the weather is dry and plant tips wilt in the afternoon; soak plants when watering, do not sprinkle lightly.
- Dig or pull weeds and keep beds mulched.