

WEEKLY NEWS COLUMN
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JUNE GARDEN CALENDAR

A side-effect of the COVID-19 pandemic has been an increase in the number of home gardens. Regardless of whether you have begun growing your own produce or not, most of us have lawns and/or trees to care for. The monthly garden calendar, found at kansashealthyyards.org provides important tips throughout the year to Kansas homeowners.

Summer brings the lazy, hazy days. With the spring cleanup and planting done, June is a time for simple maintenance and enjoyment of the lawn and landscape.

Vegetables and Fruits

- Renovate June bearing strawberry beds
- Fertilize strawberries and water regularly to promote new growth
- Plant another crop of sweet corn and green beans
- Watch tomatoes for foliar leaf disease development and treat
- Mulch crops for moisture conservation and weed control
- Continue a regular fruit disease and insect control program
- Treat peach trees for trunk borers
- Remove sucker growth from base of trees and along branches
- Pinch herbs to keep bushy and fresh with new growth
- Turn compost pile and keep moist for a quicker breakdown

Flowers

- Pinch chrysanthemums for development of a bushy plant
- Deadhead spent flower blossoms to keep plant flowering
- Remove flower stalks from peonies and iris
- Mulch flower gardens for the summer to conserve moisture, control weeds and cool the soil
- Water plants as needed
- Fertilize roses with about 1 cup of low analysis fertilizer per plant
- Trim spent rose blossoms
- Check plants for insects
- Remove dead foliage from spring bulbs
- Water and fertilize container plantings regularly to encourage growth and flowering

Lawns

- Raise mowing height on bluegrass and tall fescue to 3" or 3 ½" for summer heat resistance
- Fertilize zoysia lawns with high nitrogen fertilizer such as 27-3-3
- Sod or plug bare areas in zoysia lawns
- Spot treat for broadleaf weeds
- Core aerate zoysia lawns for removal of thatch and overall vigor

- Let grass clippings fall for nutrient recycling
- Water the turf sparingly to increase drought tolerance during heat of summer. Let turf wilt between watering for best results
- Check mower blade for sharpness and sharpen as needed
- Check lawn mower engine oil and add or change according to owners' manual

Trees and Shrubs

- Check for bagworms and control as needed
- Mulch around the bases of trees and shrubs to conserve moisture
- Prune pines and spruces to shape and control size
- Water newly planted trees and shrubs as needed
- Prune spring flowering shrubs
- Do not damage tree trunks with mowers and weed whips
- Check for spider mite damage on various shrubs
- Clip hedges as needed to maintain shape

Houseplants

- Fertilizer throughout the summer months to encourage growth
- Wash leaves to remove dust
- Take cuttings to start new plants
- Prune and shape plants for added beauty
- Repot plants as needed in 1" larger containers
- Check for insect problems

For more information about home lawn and garden care, contact Kelsey Nordyke (klndyke@ksu.edu) or call 620-221-5450.