

WEEKLY NEWS COLUMN

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JUNE GARDEN CALENDAR

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 agriculture and gardening, contact the Cowley County Extension Office 221-5450, 441-4565.

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