



Summertime In The Garden



August 2016 Garden Planner

PLANT:

• To ensure success of summer plantings, water the plants first, then transplant at dusk following our **Planting Guides**.

• Time to start planning and planting your **Water-Wise Garden**.

On July 1, 2016, the Santa Clara Valley Water District reinstated the Landscape Rebate Program and is now accepting new applications. Visit <http://www.valleywater.org/programs/landscape-rebate-program.aspx> for details. Check out our native, Australian and Mediterranean plant selection for eligible plants. See <http://www.valleywater.org/uploadedFiles/Programs/WaterConservation/Landscaping/Qualifying%20Plant%20List%202015.pdf> for the complete list of eligible plants. Join us for a free talk on August 21st. See Coming events for details.

• Sow seeds for **cool season vegetables** starting this month. Plant broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, spinach and Swiss chard seeds in containers, and direct sow carrots, onions, peas, and radish seeds into the ground.

• Plant a second crop of **tomatoes** for a fall into winter harvest. "Cool season" varieties are arriving. Planted in August, tomato plants should bear fruit for your Thanksgiving Day feast. We offer several organically-grown varieties.

• Plant **Bearded Iris** rhizomes this month for a spectacular spring display. Come to the Iris Rhizome Sale on 8/6. See Coming Events.

• **Sub-tropical fruits** enjoy warm days and nights. Plant bananas, av-



ocados, and passion fruit while soil is warm.

• Brighten up your summer with container gardens of **heat loving color**. Come in to see our fine selection. For your shady locations, Begonias, Coleus and Fuchsias will deliver WOW!

FERTILIZE:

Summer Fertilizing Tip: Water well before you fertilize, and then again after application to prevent fertilizer burn. (Air temperature should be below 85°F at application time.)

• Keep **vegetable garden** well fed with organic **G & B Tomato, Vegetable & Herb Fertilizer** for bountiful harvests. In addition to nutrients, it contains beneficial soil bacteria for healthy root growth. Tomatoes, in particular, are heavy feeders.



• Apply **Espoma Soil Acidifier** in addition to your fertilizer to green up yellow plants. It acidifies your soil and neutralizes the salts that build up. Your Azaleas, Citrus, and Hydrangeas will thank you!

• Use **G & B Lawn Fertilizer** to maintain your lawn without increasing its watering or mowing needs. It contains beneficial soil microbes and also helps break down thatch.

• **Fuchsias**, flowering plants, and container plants love **Romeo 15-30-15** to keep producing lush blossoms and growth.

PRUNE:

• Prune your **Apricot trees** now (if you haven't already) rather than in the winter to avoid Eutypa Dieback. It is a disease that spreads through open wounds in the rainy/dormant season. Symptoms are sudden withering of foliage, and some dieback of

limbs. Prune at least 8 - 12 inches below any infected limbs (dark, wedge-shaped discolorations inside the branch). Throw away the clippings (do not compost).

• **Disease problems** on roses and other garden plants can be alleviated by thinning overgrown plants. Thin branches to allow good air circulation. Remove infected foliage and throw it away. Also, keep area around plants clean of dropped, diseased fruit or foliage.

• **When deadheading Hydrangeas**, cut back to a nice fat bud on the stem.

• Last chance for summer pruning of **fruit trees** to control size. By removing about half of this year's new growth, you reduce next year's growth, keeping your trees to a manageable size. Smaller trees also need less water, are easier to protect from pests, and are easier to harvest.

• Prune back **berry vines** that bore fruit already this year, and retain the new growth for next year's production. "Everbearing" varieties will continue to produce, so wait until fall to prune them.



• **Deadhead** (remove spent flowers from) summer blooming annuals and perennials so they will keep producing flowers instead of setting seed. This is very important for fuchsias that will otherwise spend their energy growing their seedhead "berries" (poisonous) instead of producing more flowers.

PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE:

• **Grub Alert!** If you are seeing **June Bugs** this year, it likely means there are grubs (a favorite treat for raccoons and skunks)



in the ground under your lawn. To prevent varmints from tearing up your lawn this fall in search of these tasty treat, apply **beneficial nematodes** or **Safer® Brand Grub Killer**, in a handy hose-end sprayer. Its active ingredient is Neem oil. Repeat treatment in April.

• Protect your **Japanese Maples, Azaleas, and other acid-lovers** from salt burn in the hot, dry weather by applying **Espoma Soil Acidifier** to acidify your soil and neutralize salts, **then water deeply**. After the soaking apply a 2" to 3" layer of mulch. The mulch will protect your maples from scorch. Leave an area (about 12" in diameter) clear of mulch around the trunk.

• To prevent **annual bluegrass** (that fine-bladed, chartreuse grass that sprouts in the winter and browns out every summer), apply **Scotts Crabgrass Preventer** in August or September. Prevent **annual bluegrass** in your flower beds with **Preen**.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

• The best thing you can do for your summer garden is to **MULCH**. Compost, bark chips, shredded bark, or **G and B Harvest Supreme** all will help plants make it through the heat. No matter which mulch you choose, leave the area immediately around the trunk of the plant clear of mulch so the crown of the plant can breathe.

• If mysterious **problems** are showing up in your garden, please bring good-sized samples in plastic bags to

our Info Center for diagnosis. Generally, we cannot diagnose problems without seeing samples.

• Do not spray for pests or diseases when temperatures are over 85° F. It is best to spray at dusk when pollinators are not around and pests are settling down for the evening.

• Time to start planning for next year's **fruit trees**. SOFT (Special Order Fruit Trees) program order forms are now available in the store and on our website, www.Yamagamis.com. The SOFT trees arrive bareroot next January. Bareroot benefits are lower cost, greater variety selection and choice of rootstock. SOFT orders are the only way to get hard to find edible treasures like heirloom apples, Canadian White apricots, and old-fashioned peach varieties.



• Watch for **tomato hornworms** and **geranium bud worms**. In tomatoes, look for large holes in fruit or big pieces of leaves missing. In Geraniums, Petunias, and other velvety petaled flowers look for holey flowers and what looks like black pepper flakes on flowers and foliage. Control by spraying with OMRI approved **Monterey, B.t. Caterpillar Killer** or **Monterey Garden Insect Spray** with Spinosad at the first sign of damage. Remove damaged leaves and flowers and cut back plant before spraying.

• **Spring-blooming shrubs like Camellias, Azaleas, and Rhododendrons** are now setting their buds for next year's bloom. The buds need even moisture to develop fully. Mulch and deep water these plants for the best blooms next spring.

• Dig and divide your **Bearded Iris** now. Do this about every three

years to maintain maximum flower production. You also get lots of new plants to share!



Talk with CBR Iris Society members for thorough instructions. See Coming Events for details.

• First year **strawberry plants** should have their runners cut off to encourage a stronger mother plant. Three year old plants can be replaced with their runners as fruit production decreases after 2 years.

COMING EVENTS:

• **Sat., August 6th Bearded Iris Rhizome Sale** by the Clara



B. Rees Iris Society 10 AM to 2 PM. Get some great deals on some big beautiful Iris rhizomes while supporting this local garden group.

• **Thurs., August 18th 6 PM to 8 PM 68th Anniversary Evening Sale!** Spin the wheel to save between 20% and 68% OFF your entire purchase! Do you feel lucky?



• **Sun., August 21st at 11 AM Water-Wise Landscape Plants at 11 AM** with Plantsman, Mike Craib.



Class will feature plants approved for the newly revived SCV Water District's rebate program. Put some plant faces to all those plant names. Even if you are just plugging in a few new plants, this will be helpful. **FREE!**