



Summertime In The Garden



August 2017 Garden Planner

PLANT:

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



Avoid planting during hot spells so as to minimize transplant stress.

• 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 **Bearded Iris** rhizomes this month for a spectacular spring display. Come to the Iris Rhizome Sale on 8/5. See Coming Events for details.

• **Sub-tropical fruits** enjoy warm days and nights. Plant bananas, avocados, and passion fruit while soil is warm. We also offer white sapote, guavas, and dragon fruit,

• Remember, drought cycles are normal for our climate. Time to start planning your **water-wise landscape**. Check out our Ca. native, Australian, and Mediterranean plant selection for suitable plants.

• 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.

• Brighten up your summer with container gardens of **heat loving color**. Come in to see our fine selection. For your shady locations, Begonias, Cole-

us and Fuchsias will deliver WOW!

FERTILIZE:

Summer Fertilizing Tip:

Water plants well before you fertilize, and then again afterwards 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.

• Before you fertilize your lawn or ground-covers, apply **EZWet**, a soil penetrant, to allow water and nutrients to penetrate down to the roots instead of running off. 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 help keep them producing lush blossoms and growth.



PRUNE:

• Prune your **Apricot trees** now (if you haven't already) rather than in the winter. Apricots are susceptible to Eutypa Dieback, 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 discol-

orations 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 **pruning** or deadheading **Hydrangeas**, cut back to a fat leaf bud on the stem. This encourages bushy growth for next year.

• 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.

• **Dead-head** (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:

• Protect your **Japanese Maples, Azaleas, and other acid-lovers** from salt burn in the hot, dry weather by applying **Espoma Soil Acidi-**

fier 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.

• **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 later this fall (in search of these tasty treats), apply **beneficial nematodes** or **Safer® Brand Grub Killer now.** Sadly, if you wait until you see digging, it is too late to kill the grubs. The **Safer®** product comes in a handy hose-end sprayer. Its active ingredient is Neem oil. Repeat grub treatment in April.

• 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:

• 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.

• 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.

• 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 (bareroot) begin to arrive 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.

• 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.

• 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 hand-picking worms from pants or 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 hand-picking or spraying.

• 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.

• **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.

COMING EVENTS:



• **Sat., August 5th 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.

• **Sun., August 6th 3PM to 7 PM 69th Anniversary Evening Sale!** Spin the wheel to save between 20% and 68% OFF your entire purchase!



• **Sat., August 12th 11 AM Fairy Garden Class!** Garden Class with TammyMacKenzie. \$40 fee includes instructional materials to construct and bring home your own whimsical container garden. It's a fun experience to share with friends and family. Space is limited, reserve your spot by calling us at 408.252.3347.

