

JULY GARDENING



Photo by L. Stevens

Warm summer days energize our plants to burst into flower and produce an abundance of fruits and vegetables in the next couple of months. It's also a great time to get outside, admire nature's handiwork and partake of its bounty!

Planting:

- You can still plant heat-loving summer color such as verbena, zinnia and petunia. Plant impatiens in the shade.
- Last chance to plant cherry tomatoes and summer squash in the North County.
- In the South County/Coastal areas you can still plant corn.

Chores:

- Feed warm-season annuals and summer vegetables except for tomatoes (too much nitrogen causes more vegetation and less fruit).
- Deadhead flowering plants to promote continued bloom.
- Pinch back leggy plants such as petunias and chrysanthemums.
- Pick fruit regularly and dispose of any that has fallen on the ground to discourage pests and disease.
- To keep pumpkins, squash and gourds from rotting, place on dry wood chips or Styrofoam trays to keep them off the ground.
- To ripen melons faster, place upside down on aluminum pie tins to separate them from moist soil.
- Control gophers by trapping
- Control voles by keeping a weed-free strip/buffer around your garden.
- Maintain 2-3 inch mulch around plantings to retain moisture and reduce watering needs.

References:

- Pest Note 7433, Pocket Gophers
- Pest Note 7439, Voles
- Pest Note 74115, Moles
- ANR Pub. 8095, Cantaloupe: Safe Methods to Store, Preserve and Enjoy