



July 2008

Better Environments



July Landscape and Garden Tips

- Summer is here and it's a great time to add a water feature to your landscape. Inexpensive small water pumps and filters will help you as you design and build a creative water feature that will allow you to enjoy the soothing sights and sounds of water. Creative pools, fountains and waterfalls are on display at many garden center locations. We can provide you with a selection of beautiful fountains and provide installation as well.
- Plants and trees that provide color in the month of July include
- Crape Myrtles, Spireas,

- Hydrangeas, Summer sweet, Hypericum, and Butterfly Bush.
- Perennials that provide interest in the month of July include Daylilies, Rudbeckia, Phlox, Veronica, and much more.
- Check all plants, especially newly planted ones, for water on a regular basis. Water deeply and thoroughly as needed.
- Gator bags provide a great way to keep trees watered during hot and dry months. These bags are secured to the trunk of the tree, where they release the water slowly to the root ball over the course of 15-20 hours, and they can hold up to

- 20 gallons of water.
- Spruce up your summer landscape with beautiful color in containers and hanging baskets. Be sure to use potting mix when planting and a water-grabbing polymer, such as Soil Moist, to reduce the frequency of watering.
- Stop pinching Chrysanthemums by July 16.
- Do not prune Azaleas and Rhododendrons after the second week of July for they will soon begin setting their buds for next year's blooms.



Water Gardens

- Clear pond water can be achieved with proper plant balance. If the pond is in full sun, 50-70% of its surface must be covered with foliage such as Floating Heart, Water Poppy, Water Lily or Lotus.
- Underwater grasses are essential to maintaining water clarity as they utilize the oxygen in the water, which helps prevent algae from accumulating in the pond. Following

- are some easy guidelines to know when trying to figure out how many grasses are needed:
 - 1 clump of grass per 1 sq. ft. of surface area for ponds less than 25 sq. ft.
 - 1 clump of grass per 2 sq. ft. of surface area for ponds greater than 25 sq. ft.
- Time to fertilize all Water Lilies and Lotus once a month to keep the plants blooming continu-

- ously throughout the season.
- Lotus are great plants for container water gardens on a deck or patio.
- Whiskey barrels make a perfect container for these types of gardens.
- Tropical Water Lilies make a spectacular show of color for any water garden.



Pest Controls

Various pest problems can occur in July. If you have plants that you suspect may be facing a pest problem, contact your local agricultural extension office or our trained and qualified pesticide applicators for their recommendations of pest control. If using chemicals, follow the directions EXACTLY. Listed below are some of the problems that can appear this month along with the proper controls.

- If needed, set Japanese beetle traps up, but away from the garden.

- Use Diatomaceous Earth to control crawling insects such as cockroaches, ants, slugs, silverfish, earwigs, fleas, spiders, millipedes, centipedes, and carpet beetles. Can use indoors and outdoors.

- Time to control aphids, lace bugs, bagworms, birch borer, fall webworm, Japanese beetle, obscure scale, oyster shell scale, euonymus scale, pine needle scale, rhododendron borer, apple tree borer, and spider mites.

- Use Round-Up or Finale to kill weeds and grasses in brick patios

and walks.

- Spray roses with Ortho Rose Spray or Dragon Rose Spray to keep black spot and other problems under control. Many people are starting to use compost tea to keep pests and fungi under control.

- Control slugs and snails on Hosta and other plants with Diatomaceous Earth.

Fruits and Vegetable Gardens/Lawn Care

- Fertilize fruits and vegetables as needed with a good quality, slow-release vegetable food such as Osmocote.

- Stake tomato plants.

- If necessary, spray tomato plants and other vegetables to control diseases.

- Start seeds for fall vegetables this month. This includes broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, brusselsprouts and many others.

- Apply a fungicide to the lawn to control turf diseases such as brown patch, dollar spot and others.

- If needed, apply a weed control to the lawn to kill actively growing weeds. Use Dragon Lawn Weed Killer or Ortho Weed B Gone.

- Do not apply weed controls on newly seeded areas.

- Do not apply weed controls on windy days.

- Do not apply weed controls near or on the edge of waterways.

- Do not allow children or pets to play on lawns freshly applied with weed controls. It is best to wait one week.

- Do not apply weed controls when temperatures are above 85 degrees F.

- Always follow the label directions.

Upcoming Events

- June 30—July 25 is the Annual Art Exhibition and Sale at the Malaga Cove Plaza Library. Mon.—Sat., 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

- The South Coast Botanic Garden celebrates the 19th Annual Bard in the Garden: “The Taming of the Shrew,” July 23—27, 2008 @ 8 p.m. For more information, visit www.ShakespeareFestivalLA.org. Members only.

- July 6, 4:30—7:30 p.m. Upper

Meadow, “Windy Ridge Bluegrass Band.” Bring a picnic, blanket or beach chairs. This is a Fundraiser. Tickets are \$15 at the door for members and non-members alike.

- Cactus & Succulent Lecture, 1:00—4:00 p.m. Frances Young Hall, Sponsored by the South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society. Lecture will include a short trip to the Cactus and Succulent Garden to view the expansion of the project.

(Articles found at 222.fairygardens.com)

