

# How Does Your Garden Grow? Tips for July



How does your garden grow? It can be a challenge to keep it growing well as summer heats up. Utah State University Extension's Gardener's Almanac provides a checklist of tasks to help your garden, grass and plants grow well in July. Also included are links for tips and further information.

## July Checklist

- Start enjoying the [tomato](#) harvest.

- Side dress (fertilize) [potatoes in the garden](#) with nitrogen in early July.
- Harvest [summer squash](#) and zucchini when they are still small and tender.
- [Deep water](#) established trees and shrubs about once per month during the heat of summer.
- Deadhead (cut off) spent blossoms of perennial and annual flowers.
- Divide crowded iris or daylilies once they have finished blooming.
- Visit alpine areas for [wildflower](#) displays.
- Remove water sprouts (vertical shoots in the canopy) of [fruit trees](#) to discourage regrowth and to reduce shading.
- Renovate [perennial strawberry](#) beds by tearing out old crowns (mother plants) and applying fertilizer to stimulate new runners.
- Turfgrass only needs 1 ½ to 2 inches of irrigation per week. [Click here](#) to learn about irrigation needs in your area.

## **Pests and Problems**

·If tomatoes are not producing, it could be due to hot weather (95°F and above), which causes flower abortion.

·[Blossom end rot](#) (black sunken areas on the end of tomatoes) is common and is caused by uneven watering.

·Check under leaves of pumpkins, melons and squash plants for [squash bugs](#).

·Treat corn for [corn earworm](#).

·[Spider mites](#) prefer dry, hot weather and affect many plants. Treat for spider mites by using “softer” solutions such as spraying them with a hard stream of water or by using an insecticidal soap. Spider mites can be identified by shaking leaves over a white piece of paper. If the small specs move, you have mites.

·Control [codling moth](#) in apples and pears to reduce wormy fruit. For specific timing, see our [Utah Pests Advisories](#).

·Historically, control of the [greater peach tree borer](#) in peaches, nectarines and apricots occurs the first of July.

However, for specific timing, see our [Utah Pests Advisories](#).

·[Click here](#) for instructions on how to submit a sample to the Utah Plant Pest Diagnostic Lab.

·Watch for symptoms of [turfgrass diseases](#).

·Monitor for damaging [turfgrass insects](#).

To see a video on the July Gardener's Almanac tips, [click here](#).