

# How Does Your Garden Grow? Tips for July



It can be a challenge to keep gardens growing well as summer heats up, so 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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](#).

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