

Garden Calendar

(provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension, Putnam County)

June

- Water plants early in the day to allow above-ground parts to dry quickly and reduce likelihood of disease.
- Pinch back mums and asters to increase flower heads and make plants dense. Pinch three times by the 4th of July.
- Set up supports for tomatoes, pole beans and cucumbers when you plant to avoid root damage later.
- Fertilize spring flowering bulbs. Deadhead, or remove, flower stems.
- Pick up fallen apple and peach fruit to control apple sawfly, plum curculio and brown rot of peaches.
- Set mower height to 3". Leave clippings on lawn. Lawns mown at 3" have deeper root systems, and out-compete weeds better, than lawns mown shorter.
- Summer rates of horticultural oil can be used for many insect problems, depending on plants and weather conditions. Check product labels and Cornell Cooperative Extension for more information.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blooms fade.
- Consider rejuvenation pruning for large, over-grown lilacs and rhododendrons. Remove old stems to the ground, encouraging new growth. Prune out no more than 1/3 of the plant per season. Over the course of several years, rejuvenation and renewal pruning can revitalize an old shrub. New growth will need protection from deer!
- Prune or 'tip' brambles (raspberry and blackberry) in dry weather only. This will minimize the chance of disease organisms invading open wounds and improve air circulation to help foliage and stems dry faster.
- Cut out and destroy brown, damaged leaders on white pine and spruce before late July to control white pine weevil. Remember to cut well below the affected or browned portion: the weevil is active in the living tissue of the plant.
- Inspect shrubs and trees for aphids. Check branch tips and under leaves for the small insects. There are many kinds, often causing little damage. A few types may cause leaves to become distorted (e.g., snowball aphid on viburnums) or heavy infestations can reduce plant vigor. Pruning, a blast of water, insecticidal soap or other insecticides can be used if needed.
- When notching in leaf edges is noticed, intrepid gardeners can venture out at night with a flashlight to handpick black vine weevils from leaves of rhododendron, azalea, hydrangea, yew, holly, astilbe and bergenia (to name a few). Heavy infestations may require insecticide treatments starting in mid-June.
- Check and prune out scale infestations on euonymus and pachysandra. Turn over leaves and inspect stems for the white or greyish scale insects. Infested branches can be pruned out in May or treated in early June, when the small, young crawler stage appears. Crawlers are visible with a hand lens and look like tiny scales.