

Garden Calendar

(provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension, Putnam County)

July

- Water trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants well during dry periods, but avoid wetting foliage for long periods, which favors leaf diseases. Drought-stressed plants may be more prone to disease, dieback or other problems. At least 1" of water and/or rain per week may be needed. Use soaker hoses to help conserve water.
- A thick (3-4") layer of mulch over the root zone helps maintain moisture and controls weeds. Keep mulch away from direct contact with stems. However, a thick layer of mulch around the base of fruit trees can create a wonderful home for mice and voles, which can damage bark and girdle the tree during winter. Apply a thinner layer of a light mulch such as grass clippings around fruit trees instead.
- Remove and destroy mined leaves to help control leafminer in columbine, sweet pea and verbena.
- Pinch back asters and mums one more time. Stop pinching by the 4th of July.
- Remove and destroy Japanese beetles from roses, grapes, crabapples, lindens and other favorite hosts where possible. The beetles can be knocked into a can of soapy water, especially in evening when they are more sluggish. Large plants and severe infestations may require insecticide treatment.
- Cut out and destroy brown, damaged leaders on white pine and spruce before late July to control white pine weevil.
- Provide even moisture to the roots of tomatoes to prevent fruit crack, cat-facing, and blossom end rot.
- Check for the powdery masses of white prunicola scale infestation on trunks and twigs of lilac, flowering and fruiting cherry, peach and plum. Treat with summer rates of horticultural oil or other insecticide in early July. Scales can also be scrubbed off.
- Inspect euonymus twigs and foliage and hemlock foliage for scale infestation. Apply summer rates of horticultural oil if needed and conditions allow.
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- Prune off and destroy the pineapple-shaped galls on spruce while green and before they open, to help control spruce gall adelgids.
- Divide and transplant Peony and German bearded iris (the iris with thick rhizomes at the surface of the soil and fan-like leaves). Both of these perennials are dormant July and August.