

GARDENHINTS

JULY & AUGUST

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- Walk around your garden regularly watching for clues that could indicate pests or disease. If unsure of the problem, bring a sample. One of our **GARDENWORKS™** garden experts will help identify the problem and provide you a solution.
- Weed the garden... it's quick and easy if done regularly. Weeds in the garden can be a host for insects and/or diseases.
- Don't forget to water! Deep watering the lawn is best because it encourages a deep root system and improves drought resistance.
- If crows, raccoons and skunks were pulling up your lawn in the spring, you may have an infestation of the European Chafer Beetle. Biological pest controls, like Lawn Guardian, should typically be applied mid-July to early August. Talk to one of our garden experts to learn more.
- Hanging baskets and container gardens may need to be thoroughly watered on a daily basis (sometimes twice a day in the heat).
- Check the moisture levels in your garden every few days. Watering in the morning is best. Water still sitting on leaves in the cool of the evening it will not dry off and can encourage moulds and fungal disease. Never water in the heat of the day.
- Conserve water by spreading a mulch over bare soil once it is thoroughly moist. Replenish as needed.
- Fertilize your seasonal containers once every two weeks with **GARDENWORKS™** 20-20-20 or 15-30-15.
- Deadhead annual flowers aggressively to support continuous blooms throughout the summer.
- Divide Bearded Irises in July. Lift dense clumps, throw away old diseased pieces. Each division should have a firm rhizome and healthy, green leaves. Space 45cm apart in compost enriched soil. Water well.
- Collect seeds from perennials in July for propagation in seed trays in early fall.
- Inspect roses regularly, watching for aphids, powdery mildew and black spot. Come see us for solutions.

- It's not too late to plant vegetable seeds outdoors! July is a great month for planting beets, broccoli, cabbage, cilantro, kale, pole and bush beans, lettuce and onions.
- August is a good month for planting spinach, turnips, Asian greens and kohlrabi. There are numerous other seeds you can plant during these months. Ask a **GARDENWORKS™** expert if you are unsure.
- Prune hedges until midsummer but no later. Pruning too late makes new tender growth more susceptible to frost.
- Don't fertilize shrubs after midsummer for the same reasons as pruning.
- Mix and moisten the compost pile regularly.
- Pick raspberries and blackberries. Remove old raspberry canes after harvest. Leave younger canes which will be slightly green.
- Cut herbs for freezing, or tie in bundles and hang to dry.
- Check the vegetable garden regularly to see what needs harvesting. Keep watering deeply and fertilizing your vegetables on a regular basis using **GARDENWORKS™** Vegetable Food.
- Make sure potato tubers are not sitting on top of the ground. When exposed to sunlight they will turn green, making skins poisonous to eat.
- Freshly planted "drought tolerant" plants will not be drought tolerant until they have had a chance to become firmly rooted into place. Use **GARDENWORKS™** Transplanting Fertilizer and keep them well watered until they have settled in.
- Pelargonium, Hebe and Lavender cuttings can be taken in August. Use a rooting hormone and a light, well-drained soil.
- August is a good time to aerate lawns.
- Check tall blooming plants to see if they need staking.

INDOOR ACTIVITIES

Continue to fertilize your indoor plants during the growing season with **GARDENWORKS™** 20-20-20.