

July Horticulture Hints

By Marianna Quartararo, Community Educator-Horticulture

- Prune narrow-leaved evergreens by mid July.
- Remove flower stalks from rhubarb before they go to seed.
- July is hot! Make sure your veggie garden receives at least an inch of water per week.
- Check mulches and replace as needed. Three inches of mulch is good.
- Harvest vegetables to keep plants producing. Give to friends, neighbors, or food pantries if you have too much.
- Pinch chrysanthemums until mid month for fuller plants.
- Deadhead perennials to promote more blooms.
- Take no prisoners! Weed! Weed! Weed!
- Mow lawns high (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "-3") and often. Let clippings lie. Resist the urge to water if we're in a dry pattern. Grass will go dormant and green up again in the fall.
- Clean up "June drop" fruit to prevent disease/insects
- Sticky traps can be used in apple and peach trees to determine populations of apple maggot and cherry fruit flies.
- July is blueberry month! Pick them before the birds do!
- Renovate strawberry plants - Mow to 3" after final harvest. Fertilize with 5-10-5 at this time.
- Air temperatures over 75-80 degrees F. do not use lawn weed killers.
- Dig and divide German iris (bearded iris) and oriental poppies.
- Sow beans, carrots, beets for late crops. Side dress tomatoes and corn.
- Harvest and dry or freeze herbs for use over the winter.
- Continue to water spring planted trees and shrubs, also those planted the year before.

- Remove any water sprouts from grafted fruit and ornamental trees.
- Water your compost pile if it is dry.