

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

JULY TIPS

Plant Tips

Summer has arrived, and our plants are growing well. New mulch will help to keep the soil cool and preserve moisture. Be sure to water plants in containers every other day unless it rains. Use a water soluble fertilizer at half strength every second week. Dig and divide spring blooming perennials. For help removing large plants/grasses, put in a Landscape Request form.

July also is when Japanese beetles arrive. They chew on rose flowers and leaves and other flowering plants. Don't use the beetle traps such as Bug-A-Bag – they will attract many more beetles to your plants. Instead knock the beetles off into a jar of soapy water. Roses will continue to bloom if spent flowers are pruned off before the plant forms a seed pod. Cut the spent flowers above a five leaflet. Roses are beautiful, but they require much care.

Some of us have had deer and or rabbit damage to plants. When shopping for deer or rabbit resistant plants look for sharp, prickly or fuzzy foliage or stems, flowers with strong smelly fragrance, and aromatic foliage.

The Landscape approval process by The Board takes 4 to 6 weeks. Don't buy trees or shrubs until approval. Some plant material, although on the Approved Plant List, may not be right for the available space.

Poison Ivy has been spotted on our property. Some of us are highly allergic to the sticky, resin-like substance that causes the poison ivy itch. Stay on the pathways when walking around the property. Pets should not wander into the brush. Their fur can pick up the poison ivy oil which will be transmitted to you when you touch the animal.

If we run into a two-week period without rain, water the plants around your home, including near-by trees.

By the end of July some annuals like petunias and impatiens may become leggy. Pinch back each stem a few inches to encourage branching and new flower buds.

July is a good time to take your houseplants outside to wash off dust. Place them in a shaded area to acclimate to the increased light condition.

Garden Tips

If you planted bush beans earlier, start to pick the beans every two or three days while they are young. Another crop of bush beans can be planted in July for harvesting in September. Due to the July heat, plant these seeds two inches below the soil. Beets planted in April can be harvested in July while the beets are young. A second crop can be planted for harvest in the fall. July starts the harvest time for cucumbers when they are about eight inches long. The pepper harvest begins in July. Peppers left on the plant will turn a red color and will keep longer if left on the plant than the green harvested ones.