

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

JUNE TIPS

Plant Tips

Now that the danger of a light night frost has passed, annuals and perennials can be planted in the garden beds around your homes. Annuals tend to have shallow roots and dry out quickly if we don't have rain. Fertilize annuals in beds and pots with a diluted water-soluble fertilizer as indicated on the package label. Pinch off spent blossoms on petunias and marigolds to keep them looking good. Plant some annuals with interesting leaves such as coleus, dusty miller, caladium, and curly parsley.

If you see aphids on the tips of stems and foliage of your annuals, wash them off with a hard spray of water, or spray them with insecticidal soap. Remove dead or dying foliage and flowers from all plants. Continue to water during rainless periods. Stressed plants invite insects.

Pinch back chrysanthemums by half this month and every two weeks until the end of July to encourage branching and more flowers. Cut off the flower stems of faded daylily flowers after blooming. Feed your roses with a slow release rose fertilizer. Snip off at a 45-degree angle spent rose flowers just above an out-facing five leaflet leaf to encourage repeat blooming.

Please water the trees in your area (lawn and community circle) if we don't have rain for two weeks. Young trees need to be watered several times a week during a rainless period. Avoid fastening anything to a tree – bird houses, etc. Don't put heavy stones within several feet of the outer edge of the tree branch canopy. They will compact the soil and stress the roots.

Garden Tips

Soon it will be time to plant warm-weather crops in the garden plots such as tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants. Prepare the soil with organic matter and a 5-10-5 or 10-10-10 fertilizer. Put your vegetable seedlings into the soil late in the day or on a cloudy day at the same level as they grew in the pots. The exceptions are tomatoes – plant them deep without covering the foliage. You can sow seeds directly into the ground for corn and a later crop of beans, beets, carrots, kohlrabi, and turnips. Thin out seedlings to give them room to develop. When early vegetables like lettuce, spinach, and radishes are finished, pull them out and use the space for a tomato or pepper plant. Train tomato plants to grow on a stake or cage to support them and keep the fruit off the ground. Pinch suckers from tomato plants while they are young to allow energy and growth to go to the main stem.