

## LANDSCAPE JULY TIPS

### July Plant Hints

Summer has arrived, and our plants are growing well. The new mulch will help to keep the soil cool and preserve moisture. Be sure to water plants in containers and window boxes every other day unless it rains. Use a water soluble fertilizer at half strength every second week. Dig and divide spring blooming perennials. Due to health and aging factors, our plant division group has had to disband. You might get help from an able bodied person living with you or grown children/grandchildren to divide your plants. For help removing large plants/grasses, put in a Landscape Request form and get a price quote from Brickman.

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 or use Bayer Advanced 2 in 1 Systemic Rose and Flower Care – protects for 8 weeks. This product is also good for powdery mildew or black spot. Read the label before use and wear rubber gloves. 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. On tender, immature growth use Hot Pepper Wax, Repels-All or Critter Ritter.

Check your trees and shrubs. If they look sickly, a single application of Bayer 12 Month Tree and Shrub Protect and Feed will aid the plant. Again read the directions.

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he 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. If there is a sale, nurseries will hold a plant for you until you receive approval. It also makes plant substitution more readily available.

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.

If your concrete patio has a green mold on it, use 'Wet and Forget' available at Costco. It really works.

### **Garden Hints**

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.

For those who plant vegetables in pots, good combinations are: Beans, carrots & squash; Eggplant & beans; Tomato, basil & onions; Lettuce & herbs; Spinach, chard & onions. Combinations to avoid: Beans with onions, and garlic; Carrots with dill or fennel; Tomatoes or squash with potatoes; Onions with beans and peas.

If you notice insects or damage on vegetable leaves, a spraying on the top and bottom sides of leaves with Safer Insecticidal Soap will control the problem

July starts the ripening of the first tomato – a wonderful taste sensation!  
'Crockett's Victory Garden' by James Underwood Crockett; 'Gardening in Ohio Month-By-Month' by Denny McKeown; [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com); [petittigardencenter.com](http://petittigardencenter.com)

