

WHAT ARE OUR STAR GARDENERS DOING IN JUNE?



Janet Schulz: Most of us will have planted our annuals by now. Don't forget to deadhead your roses and perennials throughout the summer. If your garden hose is in the sun, make sure to run it till the water cools otherwise you might be roasting or boiling your plants. Now is the time to sit back, take a break and assess. Visit as many gardens as you can and if you've been to one before, consider going back to see what may be in bloom at this time of the season.

Sharon Ma: Memorial Day marks Summer has officially arrived. All vegetation is rapidly growing, and so do the pests and fungus. Start checking your precious plants if there are any pests, such as aphids, whiteflies, mealybugs, cucumber beetles, cabbage worms, squash bugs, etc. For soft body pests, you may spray neem oil or homemade insecticidal soap. Only spray neem oil during the early morning or late afternoon when bees and butterflies are not active because neem oil can also harm them. Never spray neem oil during a sunny afternoon because it may burn your plants. For adult pests, you may remove them with your fingers (wearing gloves, always!) and put them in a container with soapy water.

Nymphs



Spotted Lantern Fly's nymph have emerged from their egg stage by now. They are in their 1st nymph stage which is the size of a mung bean and can jump 8 inches away. By July, they will be in their 2nd nymph stage, tripled in size, change to red color, and can jump even farther. In the first nymph stage, they can be killed by spraying neem oil or insecticidal soap. When they are in their 2nd nymph stage and adulthood, you can spray them with Raid or pyrethrins. Be careful not to spray near other beneficial insects. Pyrethrin breaks down rapidly in water, on soil and plant surfaces, so it won't harm beneficial insects.

It is time to check your plants for fungal diseases. Black spots on Rudbeckia (black-eye Susan) are starting to appear on their bottom leaves. Remove the infected leaves asap and apply fungicide. I recommend making your own fungicide by using Potassium Bicarbonate:

2 tbsp K-bicarb & 1 tbsp castile soap/gal water

It works for powdery mildew too! Wash hands and tools after touching any diseased vegetation. Never compost any diseased vegetation!

Barbara Douglas: I believe your garden is just as beautiful as most of ours are by now. How about sharing pictures of your pretty garden among the club members, so everyone can enjoy it! (You may send them to Sharon and she will put them together and share them with the club.)

Paul Sisko: It is time now to trim back your Montauk Daisies, sedum Autumn Joy & chrysanthemums, so they do not get leggy. You can cut back about 1/3rd to 1/2 depending on how high they are already. Then do it again before July 4th. Also, if you haven't yet, you should be mulching your gardens with either compost or a good mulch to keep your garden weed free and retain the moisture from your watering times. Another tip is to put down anti slug bait around your hostas. Beer in a shallow tin will work if you only have a few plants or you can use pelletized granules such as Bug Getta. This is what I use since I have so many hostas. Just sprinkle under the hosta leaves. Speaking of hostas, watch out for any fungus on some of the leaves of hostas and cut those leaves off at the base of the plant.

Nancy Blasius : If you haven't gotten the tomatoes into the ground yet, it's important to plant them deeply so they have a large root system. To do this, remove the bottom several sets of leaves the day before you plant them. This allows the stems to scab over, so disease's won't enter the plant through the stem. Then plant as deeply as you can, 6-8". You can even lay the plants sideways if they are long and leggy as the top will bend and grow towards the sun. Remove any already formed flowers, so energy goes into root growth. Mulch well to retain moisture and keep any soil from splashing up on leaves. Remove leaves that yellow promptly to control diseases.

And keep weeding and deadheading. Remove finished lilac blooms.

Joan Rottkamp: My grandson and I were working in the garden clearing some weeds around our amsonia plant. The flowers are fading now but you can still get the idea. This plant should be better known by gardeners because of its many assets. It grows two to three feet tall, is a native plant, is hardy, turns golden in the fall and deer and rabbits will not eat it.



The second picture shows why our peonies didn't bloom last year. (We thought they were diseased.). This year, we caged one peony and left the other ones alone. Turns out the deer have developed an appetite for our peonies! So much for "disease resistant peonies."



Sabine Dirringer: Keep watering the plants and take wilted blooms away.