

WHAT ARE OUR STAR GARDENERS DOING IN JULY?



Janet Schulz: Water, Water, Water & Weed! Keep deadheading perennials and annuals. Visit as many gardens as you can and when it's too hot to do any of those things Relax and Enjoy your own garden.

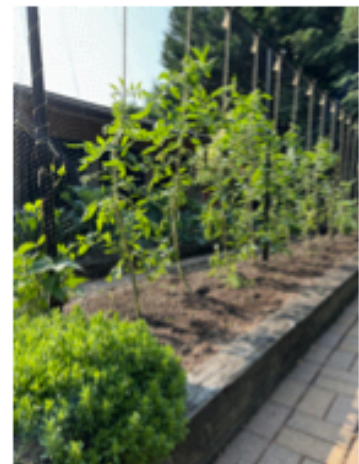
Sharon Ma: With the summer vegetables (tomatoes, string beans, squashes, etc.) developing in the garden, it is time to sow Fall crops seeds (lettuces, arugula, cabbage, broccoli, etc.) in seed trays and start planting the seedlings in mid July.

Learn what it takes to create a wildlife garden. Here are a few DIY projects worth making: Make compost piles with wooden pallets to save money on soil and fertilizer, turn garbage cans into rain barrels to cut down water runoff to the city drain, install drip irrigation systems to save water, time and labor when watering plants.



Marina Kunkera: My veg garden is very successful this year. Even the ornamental lilies are not bothered by the scarlet beetle because I diligently hand picked the scarlet

beetles off the lily leaves in Spring.



Paul Sisko: Feed your plants on a regular basis. (Usually every 2 - 3 weeks) Different plants may need different supplements. Check your watering system manually. Many of my zones go on between 4 AM and 8 AM and I do not see if they are working properly. It's easy to lose a few plants because they are not getting water for one of many reasons. Check the undersides of leaves of plants that show some unfavorable qualities like discoloration or holes. Certain bugs may not be visible on the top surface. Continue to spray plants early in the morning that develop Black Spot or a moldy look (powdery mildew) on the leaves with 1 tablespoon of Baking Soda to 1 gallon of water. Do not overhead water them for at least 12 hours. This should be done before you see the problem. example - Rudbeckia. Don't let up on deadheading after blooming is done. This encourages new growth and in many cases a second bloom.

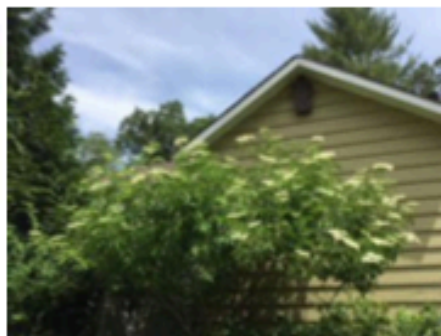
I'm becoming very fond of using surgical gloves for most of my more sensitive garden work like planting or pruning. I can get a feel of what I am doing as opposed to heavier garden gloves like the kind if I'm building Stone Walls.

One of my favorite tools for digging all medium to larger holes is a garden auger. Attached to a battery powered drill, it makes easy work of loosening the soil that has to be removed with a shovel. Soil is more aerated when replaced.

Nancy Blasius: It is time to harvest garlic now when the bottom leaves are starting to turn brown.

Walter Johnson: I use mesh bags to cover fruits and berries on trees to prevent animals from eating them.

Joan Rottkamp: Our elderberry and winterberry holly shrubs are blooming right now. These native shrubs look like trees in our yard and have reached fifteen feet, which is about their highest peak. The birds are looking forward to their berries. The winterberry holly's tiny flowers are buzzing with honey bees. Also blooming is one of my favorite flowers, feverfew (Tanacetum parthenium). Deer will not eat it, it likes poor soil, blooms for a month, bugs (and some gardeners) don't like it. Why? Because it generously spreads itself around. That's why I like it too!



Eileen Avia: Sharing my garden (pics taken on 5/31/23):

