

*Things you could or should be doing in your garden in...*

## *...JULY*

- ☛ The heat of summer is upon us; adequate watering is extremely important as we hit the 'Dog Days' of summer. This expression refers to Sirius, the Dog Star, rising with the sun each day during July.
- ☛ Mow regularly so that you cut no more than 1/3 of the grass blade at any one time. Bermuda grass may need to be cut every 5 days if it has been fertilized at a high rate.
- ☛ Raise your mower blade as the temperatures increase to put less stress on your grass.
- ☛ When irrigating lawns, early morning (4-8am) is best; it is better to water deeply and irregularly, which encourages deep rooting, than every other day for just 10 minutes. Wait to water until the lawn begins to show stress; you'll be able to see your footprints when you walk across the lawn.
- ☛ Control broadleaf weeds in lawns with an appropriate post-emergent herbicide.
- ☛ Finish all azalea pruning and fertilizing by July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- ☛ As crepe myrtle flowers fade and seed pods form, pinch them off to encourage new blooms.
- ☛ If growing hybrid tea roses, use fungicide sprays to control black spot or plant a disease-resistant shrub rose and forget about spraying.
- ☛ Tomatoes should be at their best; water regularly and pick often.
- ☛ Sow annual seeds of zinnias, cosmos and cleome for late summer blooms.
- ☛ If some annuals, such as impatiens, have grown tall and spindly, cut them back by half, fertilize and watch them grow.
- ☛ Deadhead, deadhead, deadhead to keep those flowers coming.
- ☛ Make notes in your garden journal which annuals and perennials are performing best during the heat of summer.