

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

...JUNE

- ☛ Summer officially arrives this month, along with the hot, humid weather!
- ☛ Be sure to keep pinching off flower spikes on basil, mint, caladiums and coleus to keep them producing their foliage.
- ☛ Make sure to keep mower blades sharp; cutting is less damaging than tearing grass blades. As the weather warms up, the grass grows faster; begin raising your mower height to cause less stress on the grass.
- ☛ Fertilize warm season grasses (Bermuda, Zoysia) with a turf-type slow-release fertilizer.
- ☛ Look out for brown patches in fescue lawns; too much water and fertilizer encourages the spread of this disease.
- ☛ To avoid wasting water, monitor irrigation systems for leaks and spraying onto sidewalks or driveways and repair/adjust heads as needed.
- ☛ Spend time observing your garden. Spotting bug/disease/drought problems before they get out of hand makes them easier to manage and remedy.
- ☛ An adequately mulched layer in garden beds helps conserve moisture, reduce weeds and keep the root zone cooler.
- ☛ If you haven't already, apply systemic insecticides (usually containing imidacloprid) to azaleas, hibiscus and gardenias to control lacebugs and whiteflies.
- ☛ Pick squash, cucumbers and beans every other day to encourage a continual harvest; early morning and late evenings are the best time to get out in the garden.
- ☛ Water tomato plants regularly to maintain even moisture levels; this will help prevent blossom end rot and encourage proper fruit set.
- ☛ Deadhead annuals and perennials to encourage repeat blooming.
- ☛ Apply an appropriate liquid fertilizer solution to container plantings to give them a boost.
- ☛ Be prepared to combat Japanese beetles; they will be around and there are several methods of control, but none are foolproof.