

Wegman's Nursery June Garden Tips



As you know, the upcoming months can bring waves of heat without any rain which can potentially stress your plants.

Adequate water through the summer will assist them to thrive during these expected long, hot days. Keep in mind the following points:

- Lawns, trees and shrubs cannot coexist on the same water schedule, so water trees and shrubs less frequently but for a longer time.

Check your irrigation systems now for leaks and broken or malfunctioning parts. Check also for adequate coverage. You may need to add emitters on drip systems for maturing trees or shrubs or you may need to adjust the length of time the system runs. To gauge whether your plants are getting adequate water, check the depth of moisture in the soil the day following watering. Soil around trees and shrubs should show moisture to 12 inches and will not need water again until the top two to three inches of soil is dry. Adjust sprinklers so that no water spray strikes the trunk of any tree. Apply water at the drip line and mulch two to four inches deep.

Check out our [Care Guides for Irrigating Plants](#) and [Conserving Garden Water](#) for more information.

Below is a summary for irrigating lawns, shrubs and roses, trees, and vegetables.

LAWNS

Ideally, lawns should be watered one to two times a week for one half to one hour to encourage deep root systems. If the lawn slopes, water will run off too quickly. Divide the hours or half hour watering time into two or three periods. Also be sure to aerate the lawn every year or two. Consider doing away with the lawn and substituting fir bark.

SHRUBS

For most drip or spray systems, once a week for one hour should be adequate, if you have four drippers per bush with two gallon per hour emitters.

TREES

Water established trees once a month June through September for a few hours with bubblers at the drip line to ensure a deep soaking. You can also build a basin at least four to six inches deep and flood monthly. If it is more convenient, use **Master Nursery® Root Master B-1** to irrigate your trees once a month. If the trees are a bit peaked in July or August put (high nitrogen) fertilizer cartridges in -the **Master Nursery® Root Master B-1**.

VEGETABLES

Soaker hoses work great for vegetable gardens. Run them one to two times per week for four to five hours. Turn pressure on low so that you count one drip every three seconds along the entire line

More tips for maintaining a fabulous garden. . .

ANNUALS

FULL SUN



SHADE



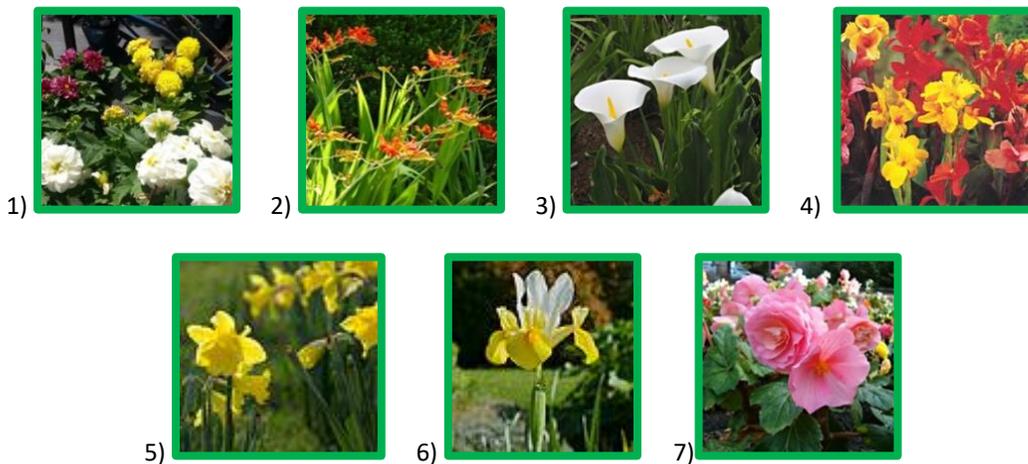
Plant: 1) Marigolds, 2) Alyssum, 3) Petunias, 4) Lobelia, 5) Cleome, 6) Salpiglossis, 7) Fibrous Begonias, 8) Portulaca, 9) Scarlet and Blue Salvia, 10) Zinnias, 11) Bedding Dahlias, 12) Cosmos, and 13) Ageratum in full sun. For the shade, try 14) Impatiens, 15) Browallia, 16) New Guinea Impatiens, 7) Fibrous Begonias, and 17) Coleus. Some full sun annuals will also perform decently with only a few hours of sun, such as 2) Alyssum and 4) Lobelia. Then mulch, mulch, mulch (**Master Nursery® Gold Rush** works well).

To thwart slugs and snails after planting annuals, apply **Monterey Sluggo®** or **Deadline®**. If you have dogs or children at home, avoid **Deadline®** and use Monterey **Sluggo®** or **Monterey Sluggo® Plus** which is effective year-round. **Monterey Sluggo® Plus** contains iron phosphate plus **Spinosad** which makes it effective for snails, slugs and many insects.

Plant: 18) Pansies and 19) Violas planted for the winter months will serve you through summer if they are in dappled light or morning sun conditions.

Sow seeds for 12) Cosmos, 10) Zinnias, 1) Marigolds, and 20) Sunflowers directly into the garden by mid-June. Seeds should sprout in 10 to 14 days.

BULBS



Wait to cut or tie the foliage of your spring bloomers until half of the leaves have turned yellow or brown.

Color Bowls (for Independence Day) It's not too late to plant color bowls for the Fourth of July. The container should be 12 or more inches in diameter and at least three inches deep. Fill half full of **Gardener's Gold Potting Soil** and then arrange plants in concentric circles from cell packs. Place four to six inches apart. For your choice: Red - Impatiens, Dianthus, Petunia, White - Bacopa, Alyssum, Sandwort, Impatiens, Blue - Lobelia, Brunnera. Fill in around the plants with more **Master Nursery® Gardener's Gold™ Potting Soil**. Fertilize with **Botanica Maxsea Plant Food** liquid every two weeks.

If you missed planting the following: 1) Dahlias, 2) Crocosmia, 3) Calla Lilies, or 4) Cannas by bulb, you will still can plant these bulbous perennials in the next few months. Assortments of wildly-colored dahlias, from the dwarf to the dinnerplate varieties, have arrived. Cannas from our growers offer unusual foliage and flower colors, adding instant texture and lushness to the garden. Check out Crocosmia as well, an often overlooked but colorful summer bloomer, great for naturalizing and for cutting.

Deadhead and feed: 5) Daffodils, 6) Dutch Iris and other long-lived perennial bulbs with **Master Nursery® Bulb Food** when they have finished blooming. Fertilizing at this time is crucial, as they soak up the sun and store food in the bulb, all for next year's blooms. Do not use bone meal.

When planting flowers such as: 7) Tuberous Begonias, remember to leave about one-quarter inch of the top of the bulb exposed to prevent rot. Apply **Master Nursery® Bulb Food** when new growth from the bulb emerges and again when they finish blooming.

FRUITS

Fire blight has been a more serious than usual problem this year. Fire blight affects pears, Pyracantha, photinia, apples and less seriously, loquats. A bacterial problem, fireblight appears on the tips of new growth or at the flower cluster. The plant part will be blackened as if scorched by fire or a blowtorch. The new growth tips then curl downward as on a shepherd's crook. Small branches may shrivel and die. To control, cut nine to 12 inches below affected tissue, *sterilizing pruning tools **between each cut with a bleach solution.*** Apply appropriate sprays during bloom next spring. (See our [Apple & Pear Care Guide.](#))



Blossom blight is also more prevalent this year and ***should not be confused with FIRE BLIGHT.*** The blossoms of apple, pear and their relatives are affected by turning brown and falling off. There is little or no fruit. There are no scorched tips nor do the new growth tips curl downward. Spray as appropriate next spring. (See our [Apple & Pear Care Guide.](#))

The first symptoms of brown rot and bacterial canker on the stone fruits (peach, cherry, plum, etc.) are the same as blossom blight of apples and pears (see previous paragraph). Later, there will be a dieback of and/or oozing from short fruiting spurs or branch tips and a decrease or absence of fruit production. While it is too late to spray for this disease this year, next year apply two additional sprays of **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** or **Bonide® Fung-onil™** at pink bud and full bloom. When pruning this summer or next winter, you should remove dead or oozing wood.



Some gardeners are reporting **peach leaf curl** on their peach trees. (See our [Peach & Nectarine Care Guide](#)). Research at UC Davis states there is no control once symptoms appear. The infected leaves will fall, and they should be collected and disposed of—**not composted**. The spores for the fungus, which causes peach leaf curl, will be embedded in the bark of the peach tree so your dormant spray next winter will have to be very thorough.

To control powdery mildew on grapes, spray every two weeks with **Safer® Garden Fungicide** starting when the new shoots are **12 inches long**. Avoid overhead water and be judicious with fertilizer so that excess soft foliage isn't generated. The soil for table grapes should be kept moist at all times while letting the top six to nine inches dry out. The soil for wine grapes should dry down 18 to 24 inches between watering.



Scab of apple and pear appears as black or brown spots on the leaves and black or brown depressions on fruit. Scab is caused by a fungus and generally begins to show in April and May. If scab is present on apples this season, spray apple trees next season at two-week intervals all month. Use sulfur or **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** or **Bonide® Fung-onil™**. If scab is present on pears this season, spray next dormant season with sulfur or copper and at the 'green tip' stage and again at early bloom.

Coddling moth (wormy apples) – apple and pear trees should have dropped all their flowers by now. It is not too late to spray with **GardenTech Sevin®**. Be sure you cover the flower blossom area and the new fruits.

If fruit trees seem chlorotic (yellow leaves with green veins), foliar feed with **Master Nursery® Liquid Gold** at the rate of two tablespoons per gallon of water at two-week intervals until symptoms disappear. Treating the soil once or twice a year (Valentine's Day and 4th of July) with **Green All® Iron Sulfate** may be a more permanent solution.



Wait to thin fruit until after the June drop, when trees undergo a natural self-thinning period.

Fertilize deciduous fruit trees and vines around Memorial Day and Labor Day with **Master Nursery® Fruit Tree & Vine Food**. Don't be tempted to over fertilize, as this can cause secondary problems with some fruits. If you missed the Memorial Day fertilizing, do it now!



If apple or pear trees have woolly apple aphid, which appear as a white cottony substance usually in crevices, pruning cuts and on the ground at the base of the tree trunk, spray with **GardenTech Sevin®** after all blossoms have dropped.

To prevent Sunscald, paint deciduous fruit tree trunks with a white, water-based interior latex paint that has been cut 50% with water. This is especially important for new trees and trees planted in blazing hot locations.

To keep birds from raiding cherries and other fruits, cover trees with **plastic bird netting**. Fasten the netting around the trunk to keep it from blowing away and to slow down attacks by squirrels.

Select and plant citrus now.

Citrus should be pruned to remove dead wood, crossing branches or long water sprouts. Suckers from below the graft should be pulled off, *not* cut off. All cuts should be made where the water sprout or crossing branch joins the main stem or a main lateral branch.



Citrus should be checked for 1) scale, a sucking insect that usually clusters along fruit stems, new growth and the undersides of leaves. If scale is found, spray with **Master Nursery® Year Round Spray Oil** (horticultural oil). Three applications are necessary at two-week intervals.

The young leaves on citrus trees may become infected with 2) leaf miners. The leaves will wrinkle, turn yellow and drop off. The tree will not die. See our [Citrus Care Guide](#) for treatments.

Never spray horticultural oil more than four times during the growing season or when daytime temperatures exceed 85 degrees F. Ants running up and down the trunk often indicate the presence of scale, so look carefully, as more than one kind of scale may be present. Check also for snail damage.

Fertilize citrus in March, May, July, and September with **Master Nursery® Citrus Food**.

While most folks prune their fruit trees once a year during the dormant season, a light pruning during the summer can benefit the home orchard in two ways. First, summer pruning helps to maintain the size of your trees. By reducing canopy mass at this time, trees grow at a slower rate and use less water. Second, you can encourage secondary branching on long whips. This increases fruiting wood. In contrast, winter pruning tends to shape trees, remove dead

and dying wood, and strengthens and increases fruiting wood. Finally, when the canopy is opened more light helps the fruit to ripen.

If peach and plum trees are dropping a lot of yellow leaves, this is normal as the fruit develops.

When fruit starts to drop in late June & July, it is often due to lack of water.

GROUNDCOVERS



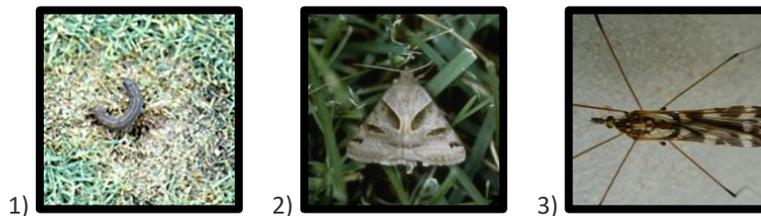
Groundcovers can still be planted, but watch for those occasional June hot spells and be sure to water new plantings in full sun deeply every 3-4 days. 1) Erigeron, 2) Cotoneaster "Lowfast," 3) Creeping Rosemary, 4) Ceanothus and 5) Manzanita are excellent groundcovers for hot, dry locations (though they do need water while becoming established). 6) Mahonia repens, 7) Creeping Snow Berry and 8) Knotweed will work in a shady area.

Fertilize groundcovers with **Master Nursery® Formula 49™** two times a year, in May and September.

To ward off slugs and snails, bait with Monterey **Sluggo®** or **Sluggo® Plus** (safe for pets and people) or one of the products listed for the ANNUALS.

For the bold and fearless gardener, 8) Knotweed (Persicaria, Polygonum Capitata) is a possible groundcover for confined space. It is evergreen, three to six inches tall and has round, pink flower heads which bloom almost all year round. Needs little or no irrigation in full to partial sun but will become invasive in the regular garden.

LAWNS



Apply **Bayer Advanced™ Lawn Season-Long Grub Control** or **beneficial nematodes** now to control 1) cutworms, 2) lawn moths, 3) crane flies and other lawn pests. (Note: If you are using herbicides to control weeds in your lawn, allot two weeks before and after nematode applications to encourage their populations to grow). Controlling insect larva now will reduce the incidence of skunks and raccoons tearing up your lawn in the fall. **Beneficial nematodes** are microscopic organisms which consume various destructive soil-dwelling insect larvae (grubs) and will not harm earthworms or bees as opposed to the Bayer product.

Spread seed or lay sod through June. For details on preparing an area for lawn installation, check out our [Care Guide for Lawn Preparation](#). Sod orders placed with Wegman's usually take two to three days for delivery. Call us for details!

Feed lawns with **Easy Livin' Master Green Lawn Food** or **Master Nursery® Master Green Weed & Feed**. For organic products use **Gardner & Bloome®** or **Concern® All Natural Weed Prevention Plus®**. If you have fall & winter fertilizer left over, it's okay to use.

If you have had problems with **Bermuda grass in your lawn**, apply **Monterey Turflon® Ester**, which also controls annual and perennial broadleaf weeds in established lawns. For crabgrass and some other weed grasses, as well as a host of other tenacious broadleaf weeds, use **Crab-E-Rad™Plus**.

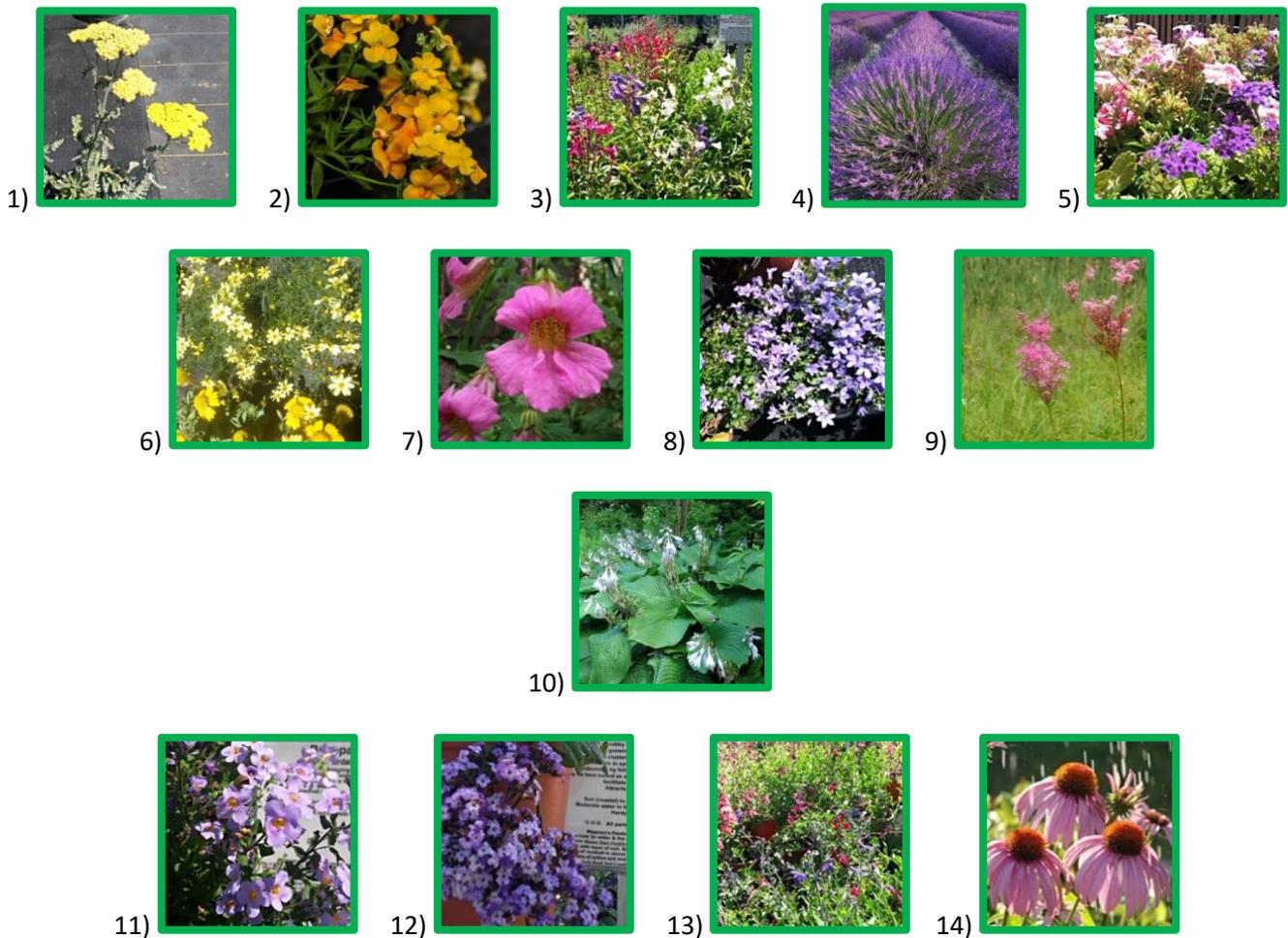
For **oxalis and broadleaf weeds**, use **Monterey Turflon® Ester**, a liquid that can be sprayed over entire lawns. Because oxalis is so tenacious, two applications may be needed.

It's time to set mowers to **summer levels** at two and one-half to three inches for fescue and bluegrass lawns and one and one-half to two inches for Bermuda grass lawns. **Remember**, you cannot use pre-emergent products for three to four months prior to seeding a lawn or laying sod. **You can, however, use Bonide® KleenUP Weed & Grass Killer** three to four days before seeding or laying sod. Before installing pick up or print out our care guide referred to above.

Grass-cycling means to leave your grass clippings on the lawn after mowing. The grass decays and disappears within three or four days and reduces fertilizer use by 30 to 50 percent. If you must cut off more than one and one-half inches of lawn, remove it and don't wait so long for the next cut.

PERENNIALS

Be sure to deadhead as blooms fade to ensure continuous bloom throughout the summer.



15)



16)



17)



18)



19)



20)



21)



Check out 1) Yarrow, 2) Nemesia, 3) Penstemon, 4) Lavender, 5) Verbena, and 6) Coreopsis for the sun, and 7) Chinese Foxglove, 8) Campanula, 9) Filipendula, 10) Hosta, 11) Bacopa and 12) Heliotrope for the shade.



Spittlebugs generally make their homes on perennials and shrubs this time of year, looking literally like a wad of spit nestled in the leaves. Wash off with a hose or spray with **Master Nursery® Nature's Pest-Fighter** or **Safer® Brand Insect Killing Soap**. These are the larva of leafhoppers, a sucking insect.

A nice handful of sun-loving perennials double as both deer-resistant and drought-tolerant plants: 4) Lavender, 1) Yarrow, 13) Salvias, 14) Echinacea, 15) Sea Lavender, 16) Society Garlic, 3) Penstemon and 17) Brachyscome all provide excellent summer color in addition to these practical attributes.

To enhance a tropical look or as accents near a pool or stonework, plant some of the new Cannas: "Tropicana" has green, pink, red and yellow-striped burgundy foliage and bright orange flowers. Others include "Black Knight" and "Miss Oklahoma."

Fertilize perennials in February, May and September with **Master Nursery® Rose and Flower Food** or **Master Nursery® Formula 49™**. You can skip fertilizing in May if your garden consists of perennials which thrive on neglect. Many of the drought tolerant perennials (see above), for example, prefer not to be pampered with high nitrogen, high phosphorus fertilizers.

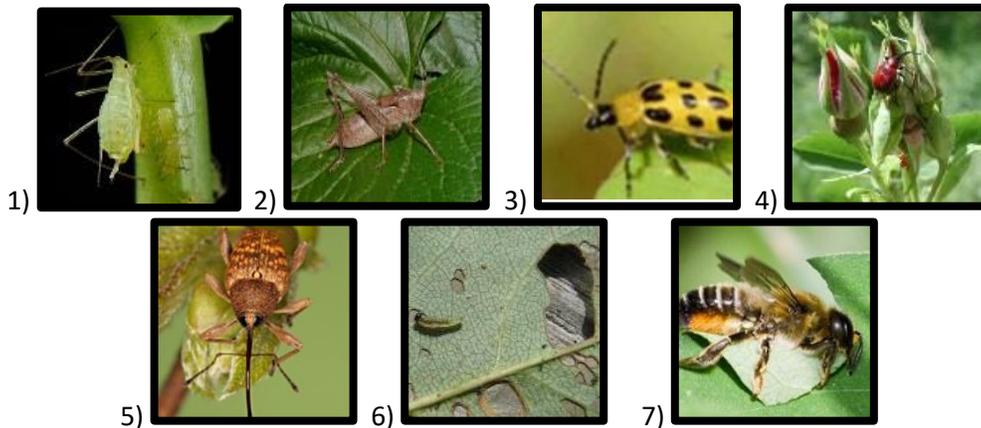
To control Bermuda grass and crabgrass and other weedy grasses in ornamental beds, try **Gordon's™ Trimec** or **Monterey Turflon® Ester**.
(See under **LAWNS**).

Bait now with **Monterey Sluggo® Plus** or **Deadline®**. Especially vulnerable are perennials such as 18) Columbine, 10) Hosta and 19) Delphinium.

If you have Australian perennials 20) Grevillea, 21) Protea, etc. avoid fertilizers with high levels of phosphorus. Cottonseed meal (6-2-1) would be a good choice.

ROSES

Be sure to stay on top of deadheading for continual bloom!



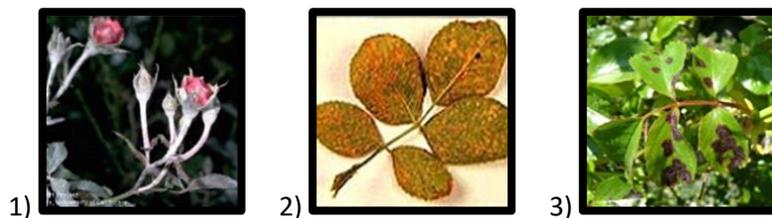
The inevitable **1) aphid** can be controlled by blasting off with water or by spraying with **Monterey Take Down Garden Spray**, **Master Nursery® Year Round Spray Oil**, **Safer® Brand Insect Killing Soap** or **GardenTech Sevin®**. If you use oil, do not apply more than four times during the growing season. Wait at least two weeks between applications. Oil may damage leaves during hot spells, so do not apply when air temperature exceeds 85°F

Watch for **2) katydids** and **3) cucumber beetles**, both of which chew on flower buds, leaving holes in flower petals. Spray as for aphids (see above) or with **Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew** (with Spinosad) but *do not use Safer® Brand Insect Killing Soap*.

4) Rose weevils and **5) curculios** chew holes at the bases of buds then lay their eggs within. When larvae hatch, they eat their way through flower buds and petals. The only control for these pests is to disbud plants as if deadheading.

6) Rose slugs have become a problem. They initially feed on the underside of rose leaves causing "windows." Eventually, the leaf looks like a piece of lace. Spray leaves with **Safer® Yard & Garden Insect Killer**, **Monterey Take Down Garden Spray** or **GardenTech Sevin®**. **Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew** is totally organic and works for all chewing insects. (Not aphids, scale, etc.)

You may also notice activity by **7) leaf cutter bees**, which remove neat, semi-circular notches from the margins of leaves. Disregard this insect—these notches are harmless and the leaf cutter bee is extremely beneficial in the garden. She uses the piece of leaf for nesting purposes.



1) Powdery Mildew appears as whitish splotches on the surface of leaves and on buds and stems. To control, use **Safer® Brand Garden Fungicide**. If these measures aren't satisfactory, use **Bonide® Fung-onil™** or a mixture of **Master Nursery® Year Round Spray Oil** and **Monterey Liqui-Cop®**.

2) Rust appears as small yellow to black spots on the upper surface of leaves which, when flipped, show rust-colored pustules. Use the aforementioned products to control.

3) Black spot normally appears in early spring as large, dark irregular marks on the upper surface of leaves. Cool, wet weather provides a favorable environment for the spread of black spot. With the advent of warm, dry weather it will not spread further *unless* you overhead water. Spray as with powdery mildew. Pick off all of the infected leaves and dispose of them. DO NOT COMPOST.

Prevent weeds in rose beds by applying **Concern® All Natural Weed Prevention Plus®**. This product is corn gluten, which prevents seeds from germinating and contains nine percent nitrogen, providing slow-release fertilization. **Never use Round-Up** within 100 feet of roses; it's the surest way to deform new foliage and developing buds. You should hand-dig or use a tool such as a hula-hoe to remove unwanted weeds.

Someone asked for a good orange-colored rose bloom. It's here now and is called "**Easy Does It™**."

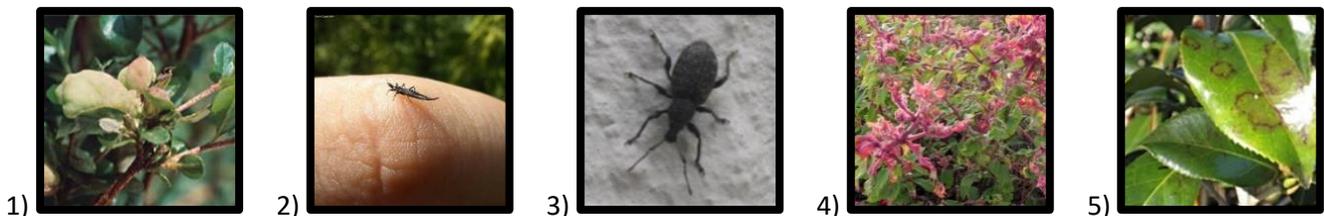
Rub off leaf buds that are facing the center of the plant. This will redirect growth to outward growing buds and help keep the center of the rose open for air circulation. Watch, too, for sucker sprouts below the graft union and remove as needed by pulling or breaking off; NOT by pruning off.



Prune once-blooming climbers such as 1) Cecile Brunner, 2) Belle of Portugal and 3) Lady Banks roses—after bloom.

Roses are heavy feeders. For largest blooms and best looking foliage, feed monthly with our specially formulated fertilizer, **Master Nursery® Rose and Flower Food**. To stimulate new cane growth, apply one (1) cup of **E.B. Stone™ Alfalfa Meal** per bush at the same time as the fertilizer during March and July.

SHRUBS & VINES



Azalea gall appears as swollen leaves with white powder on them. Remove by pruning, DO NOT COMPOST! But dispose with your garden trash. Next spring as new leaves begin to emerge, spray with copper (**Monterey Liqui-Cop®**).

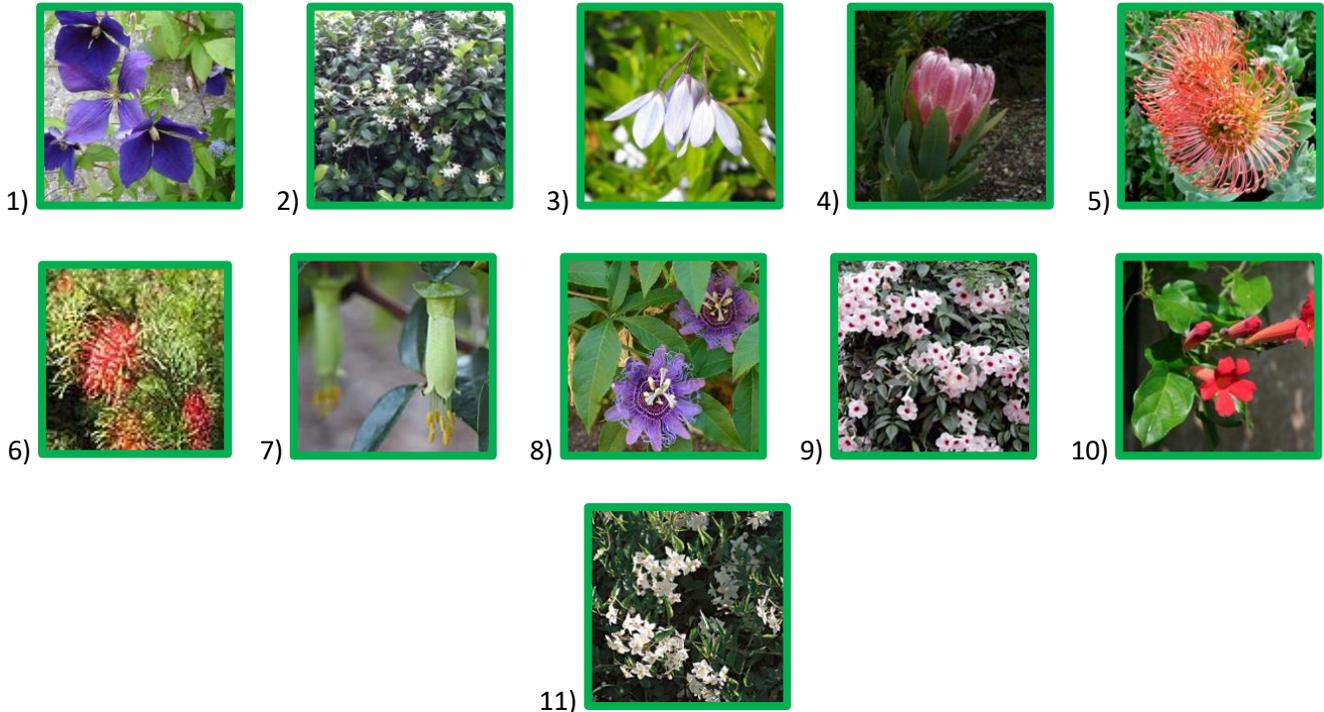
Watch for 2) thrips and 3) black vine weevil on rhododendrons. Thrips damage appears as a mottling or bleaching of the upper surfaces of leaves. Undersides show small, glossy black dots. Weevils leave distinctive notches along leaf margins as they feed. Both can be controlled with **GardenTech Sevin®** or **Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew**.

If your gardenias show brown buds which drop off before opening, the cause is probably thrips. Use **Bayer Advanced™ Tree and Shrub Protect and Feed**, **Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew** or **GardenTech Sevin®**.

4) Fuchsia gall mites create gnarled leaves with reddish blisters and are inevitable on hybrid fuchsias. If symptoms appear, UC Davis recommends that you prune out disfigured growth and spray with **GardenTech Sevin®** once a month after spring pruning. You can also begin a preventative program using **GardenTech Sevin®** once a month. Consider species fuchsias, which are mite-resistant. While not as showy as the hybrids, they offer the same bloom time and a

surprising diversity of foliar textures. Fuchsia gall mites are spread by hummingbirds and by being blown by the wind ([Fuchsia Care Guide](#)).

5) Camellia golden ring spot virus manifests as yellow rings or circular splotches on two-year-old or older leaves. It may also cause streaking in flowers. There is currently no cure for this virus, but it may spread by pruning tools. Be sure to clean tools with a 10 percent bleach solution between shrubs.



1) **Deciduous clematis are in full bloom.** Excellent in part to full sun, rampant and colorful, these vines simply require that their roots be kept cool. Generously mulch using **Master Nursery® Forest Blend** or **Master Nursery® Gold Rush**. Clematis may be planted under the edge of a deck or at the foot of a tree or shrub.

Mediterranean climate natives now in bloom include 3) Sollya, 4) Protea, 5) Leucospermum, 6) Grevillea and 7) Correa. While you may not be familiar with these plants, they make excellent additions to the landscape with their early bloom, deer-resistance and tolerance to wet winters and dry summers.

8) Passion vine, 9) bower vine and 10) scarlet trumpet vine bloom now through mid-summer and make nice companions to 11) potato vine, which blooms all summer. Passion vine will also bloom all summer.



Fertilize evergreen shrubs and vines in May and September with **Master Nursery® Formula 49™ (8-4-4)**. **If your azaleas and camellias have been troubled by petal blight**, which appears as brown splotching on petal margins of open flowers, partly open flowers and flower buds, keep beds free of debris. Remove infected flowers and buds and try not to let infected petals hit the ground. If they do, gather and place in trash immediately, **DO NOT COMPOST!** Azalea petal blight can be controlled by spraying but not camellia petal blight.



TREES

Watch for powdery mildew on crape myrtles. If symptoms appear, spray twice with **sulfur** a week apart. If you're thinking of planting crape myrtle, consider planting those with the Native American tribal names, such as *Tuscarora*, *Hopi* and *Natchez*. These varieties were hybridized specifically to resist powdery mildew. Crape myrtles bloom best in full, hot sun (best south of Belmont on the

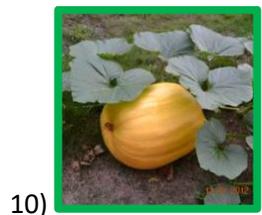


Peninsula). Crape myrtle plants will belong to one of these size ranges: Semi-dwarf (to 12'), intermediate (to 20') or tree form (to 35').

For established trees that are isolated in the landscape or for those trees which seem chlorotic, use the **Master Nursery® Root Master B-1** to fertilize and deep water.

If the tips of leaves on your Japanese maples turned brown along the edges last year, protect them from tip burn this year by spraying with the **anti-transparent Wilt Stop** and mulch two to three inches deep. Remember to always keep **mulch** at least three inches away from tree trunks.

VEGETABLES



You can still plant 1) Tomatoes, 2) Peppers, 3) Eggplants, 4) Squash, 5) Corn, 6) Basil, 7) Green Beans, 8) Cucumbers and 9) Melons from starts. Remember to fertilize and amend soil liberally, as vegetable crops deplete nutrients from soils rather quickly. We like **Master Nursery® Gold Rush**, which includes chicken manure, giving plants a slow nitrogen boost. Add **Master Nursery® Tomato and Vegetable Food** or **Gardner & Bloome® Tomato, Vegetable & Herb Fertilizer** at planting time and six weeks later.

Start beans and 10) pumpkins **from seed as late as mid-June.**

We have tomatoes available in two-inch, four-inch, and one- and five-gallon containers, many with fruit already formed.



If you have had problems with verticillium wilt on tomatoes and potatoes, consider covering beds with clear plastic for six to eight weeks during the months of June to September. This process, known as solarization, sterilizes the soil by cooking harmful microbes in the soil. Be sure to anchor the plastic with dirt or heavy objects. While these beds will be unusable for a season, the sacrifice will pay off in healthy plants the following year.



For whiteflies on tomatoes, use **Monterey Take Down Garden Spray**, twice at one-week intervals. Consider using **whitefly traps** in conjunction with the sprays for more complete control and even a "hand vacuum" late in the afternoon to vacuum up the reproductive flying adults. Spraying with **Safer® Brand Insect Killing Soap** until it drips off the plant will get a lot of them. So will **Master Nursery® Year Round Spray Oil**—three times, five to seven days apart.



1) Tomatoes make great container plants. Use at least a 15-gallon container for most types and try ‘Sweet 100’ in a 16-inch hanging basket.

Plant 2) artichokes through June and July from four-inch or one-gallon pots and allow them a four foot diameter growing area in full sun.

Cool season greens, such as 3) Lettuce, 4) Spinach, 5) Cilantro, 6) Chard, 7) Bok Choy and 8) Mustard can be planted through the summer in morning sun locations. Under warmer temperatures, they will go to seed more quickly, so plan on planting more frequently.

Grow herbs in one-gallon sized containers in full sun for strongest flavor.

Plant basil and cilantro at four-week intervals to maintain a continuous supply. To some people, cilantro tastes like soap (it’s a genetic trait).

OTHER THINGS TO DO

Container plants must be fertilized much more often than the same plants in the ground. Evergreen plants including trees and shrubs must be fertilized year round. Deciduous plants are fertilized from Valentine’s Day to Halloween (NO winter fertilizer). Wegman’s Nursery likes to use the **Master Nursery** brand of fertilizer because they are produced to meet the needs of specific plants and our alkaline water. The pellets last almost a month and break down slowly. An easy way to remember how much fertilizer to use is to measure the diameter of the container and divide by six. That’s the number of level tablespoons of fertilizer to use each month.

When you use an organic fertilizer containing microbes, be sure to check for an expiration date. If it has expired, the microbes will not perform as expected.

Spread two to three inches of mulch over garden beds. Mulch materials can include **Fir Bark**, **Master Nursery® Forest Blend** redwood compost, composted leaves or **Master Nursery® Gold Rush**, to name a few. In general, mulches are any organic material spread over the surface of the soil that serves to retain moisture, discourage weeds, moderate soil temperature and add organic matter as it breaks down. Be sure to keep mulches two to three inches away from the crown of plants and trunks of trees.



Consider utilizing beneficial insects in lieu of insecticides this summer. 1) **Ladybugs** and their larva feast on aphids and are especially useful in rose gardens and vegetable gardens. Release 50-100 at a time, in the evening. Set out shallow dishes of water along with plant parts covered with aphids. These props will encourage ladybugs to stick around since they don't fly at night. 2) **Praying mantis** are sold in their egg cases. Set out egg cases in a shady location off the ground, such as in a tree or shrub. Eggs will hatch mid to late summer. **Beneficial nematodes** are useful for lawns, shade gardens which include rhododendrons and around citrus. Apply in April/May and again in July. Soak in bucket of water for 30 minutes, and then gently remove vermiculite. Put solution in watering can and water lawn or beds, applying as evenly as possible. Rinse out bucket to get all organisms. As all of these are living creatures, remember not to apply insecticides in their midst, as they will be killed.

Container plants must be fertilized monthly with an appropriate granular fertilizer such as **Master Nursery® Formula 49™** or a species specific fertilizer (e.g. citrus food).

Don't forget your birds, which eat their weight in bugs each week. They need a drink of water, too, so keep the bird bath or shallow dish full. If you rinse these containers out once a week, there will be no mosquito problem.

Consider watering indoor plants with two tablespoons of vinegar per gallon of water once a month in order to reduce salt build-up and to lower pH.

Compost tea, formerly known as manure tea, is regaining popularity. You can make your own by filling a five-gallon pail one-third full of **Master Nursery® Steer Manure** and one half a cup of **Master Nursery® Fish Emulsion**. The pail is then filled with water and allowed to 'steep' for four to seven days. At the end of 'steeping,' the mixture is filtered through a couple of layers of cheese cloth or an old T-shirt. The 'tea' is diluted to the color of weak tea for use by watering a gallon or so of it around each plant and spraying it on the foliage. There is some experimental evidence indicating that spraying the 'tea' on plant leaves prevents attacks by disease micro-organisms. Some people put the manure teas in an old pair of tied-off panty hose and use them like a teabag. *Be sure to wear rubber gloves during these procedures* because instances of bacterial infection have been reported from handling these products and their resultant 'tea.'