


Early Summer


July 11, 2024

July Planting

(by seed or transplant)


Vegetables:

 [Cucumbers](#)

 [Summer Squash](#)

 [Bush Beans](#)

Herbs:

 [Basil](#)


 [Parsley](#)


 [Dill](#)

 [Chives](#)


 [Cilantro](#)

 [Sage](#)

 [Rosemary](#)

 [Thyme](#)

Flowers:


 [Nasturtium](#)


 [Zinnia](#)

 [Sunflowers](#)

 [Cosmos](#)

 [Marigolds](#)

 [Morning Glories](#)

 [Cornflowers](#)

 [Alyssum](#)

A Hot Garden Summer

Keep Your Garden Summer-Ready

Irrigation

As temperatures spike, it is important to have a consistent watering plan, and to mulch your soil surface for improved water retention. If watering directly, early mornings and/or early evenings are recommended. Try your best to water at the soil line vs. wetting plant leaves. Watering from below via plant saucers and using watering spikes can also help keep up with your plants' needs during these long, hot days. If you have access to an outdoor water source and have more wiggle room in your budget, a drip irrigation system may also be another option. [Read our Thriving Through Harvest Part One post](#) for more on irrigation.



Left: Watering spikes with wine bottles; Center: Drip irrigation; Right: Saucers

Shading



If expecting extended periods of intense sun and heat or experiencing [sunscald](#) or [leaf scorch](#), using a shade cloth can help reduce the exposure. They are relatively inexpensive, reusable, and available for purchase at online and big box retailers, as

well as your local nurseries. An old white sheet or floating row cover can also do the trick!

Make it Personal

Does your garden reflect you and yours? If you are looking for inspiration on ways to customize your garden space for your wants, likes, and needs, [see our Put Your Stamp on It post](#).

Another approach is to keep container plants that undergo stress during intense sun and heat to areas that are protected from afternoon sun, or to move them to shaded areas later in the day. [Read our Thriving Through Harvest Part Two post](#) for more details regarding protective covers and pest control.

Pest Patrol

Make sure leaf checks are part of your daily routine. Check upper and lower leaf surfaces and along the stems and base of your plants. Be on the lookout for insects and/or eggs. Try to be an informed gardener. We recommend signing up for the (free) [iNaturalist app](#). You can upload pictures for identification of all insect stages from eggs to adult. Then you can do an online search to determine if visitors are a threat and if so, the best way to be rid of them.

If you haven't already, do a Google search to determine common insect pests for each of your garden plants. We keep a lidded tub of soapy water (Cool Whip, margarine or grated cheese containers) for disposal of damaging beetles and worms/caterpillars. If you're not too fond of touching creepy crawlers, designate a pair of garden tongs or tweezers, or [try this bug vacuum](#).



Left: Nature Bounds Bug Vacuum; Right: Caught! Even pending death can't stop the Japanese Beetle party!

Bloom Maintenance

Aside from adding beauty and serenity to your garden space, blooms on flowering shrubs, herbs and other plants, attract the many pollinators and other beneficial insects that help your garden thrive. Many perennials and annuals will continue to produce new blooms if you deadhead the fading ones. If uncertain, do an online search to determine if your plant varieties benefit from deadheading. In our garden space, we have deadheaded pansies, marigolds, yarrow, coneflower, Black-Eyed Susans, blanket flower, globe gilia, Forget-Me-Nots, coreopsis, geranium, buckwheat, and (hybrid) dwarf branching sunflowers for continuous blooms.



Above: *Plains Coreopsis*



Left: *Black-Eyed Susan* and *Lance-leaved coreopsis* with new buds formed after deadheading; Right: *Eastern Bumble Bee* on a *coneflower (Echinacea)* bloom

Pollinator Catwalk

Pollinator visitors have been increasing these last several weeks. Following are a few of our garden models that were totally unbothered enough for some great images 🐝



Left: *Honey Bee*, Center: *Eastern Calligrapher*, Right: *Bumble Bee*

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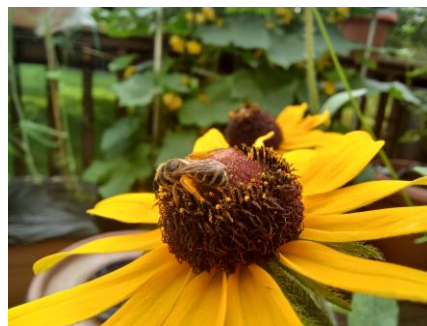
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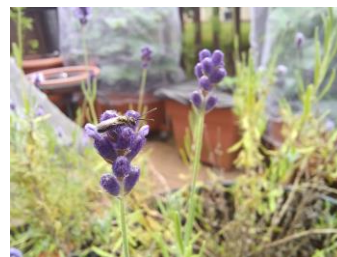
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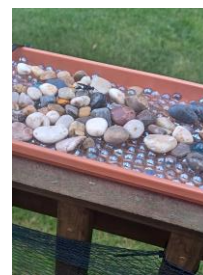
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Left: Furrow Bee on coreopsis; Right: Furrow Bee on Black-Eyed Susan



Left: Carpenter Bee in cucumber blossom; Right: Sweet Bee in lavender



Left: Common Sootywing; Center: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail; Blue Mud-dauber Wasp

Seasonal Reminders

Other than the suggestions shared in this month's newsletter, be mindful of pruning excess foliage (with clean shears/pruners) to shift plant resources to fruiting (for vegetable crops) and to permit improved air circulation or light exposure as needed. Also, start thinking about fall garden plans. For a head start, [see our fall garden post](#). In the meanwhile, bask in all the wins in your garden space, big and small, and take the losses on the chin, as they are merely lessons. It's always about the journey, so using all your senses, enjoy what you have cultivated!

Find us on Facebook and Instagram for seasonal updates and to share your progress/process and for troubleshooting as needed.



