



# Virginia Cooperative Extension - Loudoun County Master Gardeners



## Helpline Hints for July - the first full-summer month

Flowers	Garden	Lawn	Trees / Shrubs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to cut-back early perennials and annuals to promote fall rebloom</li> <li>• Continue to pinch back chrysanthemums until mid-July to promote fullness and fall bloom</li> <li>• If perennial foliage looks bad, cut it back for regrowth (bee balm, hostas, and other durable plants)</li> <li>• Continue to deadhead roses; watch for powdery mildew and remove any fallen or diseased leaves (do <u>not</u> compost); make sure plant has good air circulation</li> <li>• Watch for Japanese beetles and pick them off into soapy water in the early morning before they wake up (place traps away from ornamentals as they lure beetles)</li> <li>• Continue to check for signs of disease or insect damage and treat accordingly</li> <li>• Water container plants frequently as they dry out faster</li> <li>• Weed!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed!</li> <li>• Prune and destroy blackberry and raspberry canes that bore fruit this year – they will <u>not</u> produce again and may harbor pests; prune 3-4" off tops</li> <li>• Watch for blight and leaf spot on tomatoes</li> <li>• Fertilize day-neutral strawberries with manure tea or 5-10-5 organic fertilizer</li> <li>• Harvest onions and potatoes after tops yellow and die</li> <li>• Propagate herb cuttings; deadhead basil; if pruning herbs, dry them for winter use (put them in the microwave between paper towels for 1 minute)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prune ground cover as needed</li> <li>• Watch for lawn diseases</li> <li>• Remove hiding places for undesirable insects, like earwigs (boards, firewood, etc.)</li> <li>• Remove any standing water that can breed mosquitoEs (gutters, old tires, etc.)</li> <li>• Keep grass longer (3") to protect it from high heat and control crabgrass</li> <li>• During extreme heat, conserve water by allowing the lawn to go dormant</li> <li>• Pour boiling water on unwanted grass and weeds in driveways and sidewalks</li> <li>• Rake away the slime mold "dog vomit fungus" that may appear in mulched areas following rainy periods – it's harmless</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for cedar apple rust (as well as quince and hawthorn rust), although the spots appear now, infection occurs during April and May so treatment now has no impact</li> <li>• Watch for powdery mildew</li> <li>• Use sulfur as a natural, general-purpose fungicide: either as a dust, or mixed with water to be sprayed</li> <li>• Look for the beginning of bagworms (about 1/2") and handpick</li> </ul>

Visit the Loudoun County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at Ida Lee Park to see the beautiful ornamental flowers and the ripening vegetables . . . or contact our Helpline with your questions – 703 771-5150 or [ex107@vt.edu](mailto:ex107@vt.edu).

This is the time of the year for pests. **Integrated Pest Management** is a combination of appropriate pest control tactics. Contact the Master Gardener Helpline for information.