

THE JUNE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Now is the time to start or finish getting your garden in! For those of you, who waited, get growing and for those of you, who have already started, time to finish up. Here are some things you can do.

FRUIT TREES

-WATER THEM!

Look for aphids and spray them off with a hard stream of water and then hit them with an Azadirachtin product. It's organic and works well against aphids and thrips. Comes from the Neem tree in India. Spray in the evening as some plants may be sensitive to it and get burned plus I don't like to spray anything in the daytime.

Thin out your apples. Too many will make them smaller and may break branches later when they mature. Hard to do, but a must.

DRIP SYSTEMS

Install, replace or repair your drip system. Don't have a drip system? Put one in. They are simple to do and will really conserve water and gets the water down to the roots where the plant needs it. Then you can spend your time doing other things besides hand watering.

TOMATOES

-Remove Wall of Waters once tomato plants reach top of them

-Cover your tomato plants with row cover to prevent Curly Top disease

Put straw under tomato plants as a mulch to help retain moisture and to protect plants from soil borne diseases.

-Prune and pinch back tomatoes as they grow. Take off any branches that will touch the ground, this will help protect against soil borne diseases.

-Start spraying with Serenade about every 10-14 days. It is an organic fungal spray that is used as a preventative and also helps when fungal disease hits.

-Make a great tomato cage instead of the flimsy store bought ones. Use Concrete reinforcement wire, 5 feet tall and cut at 13 squares. Use a heavy-duty wire cutter or better still an angle grinder. Once made, you'll have it forever.

PLANTING SEEDS

-Start warm season crops like bean, corn, cucumber, and flowers by seeds. Soil is warm enough. Cover all with row cover until plants are 3-4 inches tall. Using row cover protects new seedlings emerging from birds and bugs

-Roily-polys can cut your new emerging seedlings down like a weed whacker. I had to plant bean seeds 3x last year because of them. If I see them, I spray them with Neem.

-For squash, squash vine borers cannot get in if you keep row cover over your squash as it grows. SVBs come early in the season and literally kill your plants by laying eggs in the stem at the base of the plants. SVBs leave right about the

time the squash flowers and you take it off for the bees to pollinate.

-Add legume inoculate to soil before planting bean seeds. This will help beans fix nitrogen on the roots-nitrogen nodules. Good for the following crops. Adds nitrogen back in the soil.

TRANSPLANTS

-Transplant pepper and eggplant plants now

-Put out Nolo Bait for grasshoppers BEFORE they come or get big. Keep Nolo Bait refrigerated.

-Finish planting any transplants you still haven't done.

MAKE A SHADE GARDEN

-Plant heat resistant lettuces and greens in a shady spot. They will last longer and may not bolt. Horses bolt and so does lettuce! Bolting is caused by more sunlight with our longer days and not summer weather. Use shade cloth over a low tunnel. Some heat resistant varieties of lettuce include:

Bibb or (Butterhead) -Summer Bibb, Speckles, Summer Bibb blend, Santoro, Red Sails and Buttercrunch

Lollo Rosso

Leaf-Salad Bowl, 4 seasons, Oak Leaf, Red Deer Tongue and Black-Seeded Simpson. Lollo Biondo, Ruby Leaf

Romaine-Little Gem, Parris Island Cos, Jericho, Trout, Cimarron

WEEDS

-Pull to cut off weeds in the garden and around the perimeter. This will get rid of hiding places for bugs. Use 20% vinegar to spray persistent weeds-90% kill rate. Get it on the Internet. Regular vinegar doesn't work. Put a pre-emergent down. I like corn gluten, which is high in nitrogen and will kill the seedlings as they germinate.