

Wegman's Nursery July Garden Tips



Check your irrigation systems during this hot weather . . .

It is important to keep in mind the drought situation experienced over the past several years. Fortunately, we here in the Bay area have received enough rain to upgrade us to a non-drought situation.

Keeping this in mind, the upcoming months will bring waves of heat requiring adequate water output through the summer to help plants survive during these long, hot days. Read over our [Care Guide for Conserving Garden Water](#) for ways to extend your available garden.

Continue to check your irrigation systems for leaks and broken or malfunctioning parts. Check also for adequate coverage. You may need to add emitters on drip systems for maturing trees and shrubs. You will also need to reduce or increase 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 do not need water again until the top three to four inches of soil is dry. If you are not sure about moisture depth, we recommend that you get and use a **Rapitest® Moisture Meter**. When you use your moisture meter, be sure to keep the tip of the probe clean and push it into the center of the root ball as well as into the area between the trunk and drip line. Apply three or four inches of mulch to help prevent water loss by evaporation. The mulch should be at least between the plant's trunk and drip line, but over the entire area is better.

As trees and shrubs grow, add extra emitters and move them away from the trunk and to the drip line of the tree. One emitter may have been enough when the tree or shrub was planted but not when it is four or more years old.

For those of you living in the Redwood City area, call 780-7436 to schedule a free **"Smart Home Water Use"** house call. In the Santa Clara Valley Water District, call 1-408-265-2600, ex 2554.

Remember that lawns, trees and shrubs cannot coexist on the same water schedule!

Please read our [Care Guides for Irrigating Plants](#) and [Conserving Garden Water for Trees, Shrubs and Roses](#) for more information. Below is a summary for irrigating lawns; shrubs and roses; trees; and vegetables.

WATERING FOR NEW PLANTS

Once planting is completed, water plants in well. Check plants daily for water during the first week and if necessary, place hose on trickle near the base of the plant and leave on for up to 30 to 60 minutes. You may need to run drip or spray systems every three to four days for the first two weeks if you find that the top three to four inches of soil dries out quickly. Be sure to check that water is moistening the root ball and not just the surrounding soil. You can then adjust according to the following recommendations:

Watering for Lawns

Ideally, lawns should be watered one to two times a week for one-half to one hour to encourage deep root systems; or sacrifice the lawn. Turn off the sprinklers and save the water for trees and shrubs. In Redwood City you may be receive a rebate for every square foot of lawn you replace with water-efficient plants and/or drip irrigation!

Watering for Shrubs and Roses

For most drip or spray systems, once a week for one hour should be adequate, if that puts 5 to 10 gallons of water on each bush. Remember to avoid direct water on rose foliage unless you water early just before dawn. In fact, washing roses with a fine water spray in the morning inhibits spider mites and powdery mildew.

Watering for Trees

Water established trees once a month July through September for a few hours with bubblers at the drip line to ensure a deep soaking. You can also build a berm at least four to six inches high at the drip line and flood monthly. Remember to check the depth of moisture in the soil the day following watering. Moisture should be apparent to 12 inches. Trees will not need water again until the top three to four inches of soil is dry.

Watering for Vegetables

Soaker hoses work great for vegetable gardens. Run them once or twice per week for four to five hours. Turn pressure on very low until you count one drip every three seconds along the entire line. If water shoots three to six inches high, it is too much pressure.

More tips for great gardens...

ANNUAL

If planted now, summer annuals will give you four more months of color. In full sun, plant marigolds, Vinca rosea, alyssum, petunias, lobelia, cleome, salpiglossis, fibrous begonias, zinnias, bedding dahlias, cosmos, and ageratum. For the shade, try New Guinea impatiens, fibrous begonias, and coleus. Some full sun annuals will also perform decently with a few hours of sun, such as alyssum and lobelia. These plants respond well to soaker hoses. (Please review the above entry: **Watering for Vegetables.**)

Don't forget to apply Monterey Sluggo® or Deadline® after planting annuals. Sluggo® is the only product toxic to slugs and snails, but safe for all warm-blooded creatures.

Deadhead annuals regularly to keep them blooming and fertilize every six weeks with **Master Nursery® Rose and Flower Food** or **Gardner & Bloome® Rose & Flower Fertilizer.**

There's still time to make a small color bowl (or two or three) for the holiday. Use a shallow bowl. Place three red Vinca rosea, from cell packs in back, then three or four Alyssum and three or four Blue Lobelia in front, all from cell packs. Use **Master Nursery® Gardener's Gold Potting Soil** and wet thoroughly.

BULBS



Wait to cut or tie the foliage of your spring bloomers until half of the leaves begin to turn yellow or brown. The longer the leaves remain, the bigger the bulbs will become.

If you have missed planting dahlias, crocosmia, or cannas by bulb, you can plant now from one or two-gallon containers. We have assorted **dahlias**, from dinner plate to tree varieties, as well as several unique selections of cannas. Check out the "Lucifer" series, featuring bicolor flowers. Check out **crocosmia** as well, an often overlooked but colorful summer bloomer, great for naturalizing and for cutting.

Tuberous Begonias are here! Come check out our selection of upright and trailing types, including some unusual perennial varieties.

When planting tuberous begonias, remember to leave about one-quarter inch of the top of the bulb exposed to prevent crown rot.



Apply Master Nursery® Bulb Food when bulbs break ground and again when they finish blooming. We are recommending bulb food rather than bone meal because bone meal now has all the nutrients except calcium and phosphorus boiled out.

Leave narcissus bulbs in the ground. They will come up and bloom year after year preferably in an area that gets little or no summer water. Tulips, crocus and hyacinths must be dug, cleaned and put in the crisper if they are to bloom next year.

FRUITS

Thin fruit on apples, peaches, nectarines, and apricots to protect fruiting wood from breaking from weight, to prevent alternate bearing, to discourage fungal problems associated with high humidity created by fruits that touch, and to encourage the development of large, quality fruits.

Apples: Leave the single largest fruit per cluster per spur; one fruit every six to eight inches.

Pears: Are usually not thinned except Asian Pears. Remember, Asian Pears stay on the tree until fully ripe. Other pears are picked as they begin to change color and then allowed to ripen in the garage or other protected area.

Apricots and Plums: Thin when fruit is about the size of marbles and leave two inches between fruits.

Peaches and Nectarines: Same as for plums and apricots.

The best way to keep squirrels and rats out of your fruit trees is with the **Ross® Tree Netting** completely covering the tree and tied tightly at the trunk.

While most folks prune their fruit trees once a year during the dormant season, pruning using heading cuts during the summer can benefit the home orchardist in two ways. First, summer pruning helps to maintain a moderate size of your trees. By reducing canopy mass currently, trees grow at a slower rate and use less water. Second, you can encourage secondary branching on long whips which have been shortened. This increases fruiting wood. In contrast, winter pruning tends to remove dead, dying and diseased wood; shape trees; and enhance light and air penetration to fruiting wood.

If you haven't sprayed apples a second time for codling moth, do so immediately!



Scab on apple and pear appears as black or brown spots on the leaves and black or brown depressions on fruit. A fungus, scab generally begins to show in April and May. If scab is present on apples this season, spray apple trees at about mid-February at two-week intervals beginning at the "green-tip" stage (when leaf buds begin to break) and until flowers open. Use

Monterey Liqui-Cop® or **Bonide® Liquid Copper Fungicide**. If scab is present on pears this season, spray next dormant season at the green tip stage and again at early bloom.

Fire blight has been a more serious than usual problem this year. Fire blight affects pears, Photinea, Pyracantha, quince, apples and less seriously, loquats. It is caused by bacteria. Fire Blight appears on the tips of new growth or at flower clusters. 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. To control, cut 9 to 12 inches below affected tissue, sterilizing pruning tools between each cut with Lysol or a (9 to 1) bleach solution. Apply appropriate sprays during bloom next spring.



Please **Pear Psylla for the first time** during a house call. Adults are about one-sixteenth of an inch long, light brown in color, and have wings folded, tent-like over their back. They leave sticky 'honeydew' on infected leaves. **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil (Horticultural Oil)** seems to be the only treatment.



Blossom Blight is also more prevalent this year. The blossoms of apple, pear and their relatives are affected by turning brown and sticking to the fruit spurs. The disease is often mistaken for Fire Blight. Blossom Blight does not progress past the tip as Fire Blight does. There are no scorched tips. Spray as appropriate next spring.



To control powdery mildew on grapes, when new growth is 10 to 12 inches long, spray every two weeks with **sulfur, (Safer® Garden Fungicide)**. Avoid overhead water and be judicious with fertilizer so that excess foliage isn't generated. Do not spray with oil for 30 days of any sulfur spray.



If fruit trees seem chlorotic (yellow leaves with green veins), foliar feed with **Master Nursery® Liquid Gold Fertilizer** at two-week intervals until symptoms disappear and be sure to fertilize with a high nitrogen fertilizer next Labor Day. (You should have also fertilized on Memorial Day.)



Many folks are reporting Peach leaf curl on their peach trees despite the three necessary dormant sprays in November, December and January, Research at UC Davis states that there are no control once symptoms appear. As the infected leaves fall, they should be collected and disposed of—**not composted**.



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 fruit trees are constantly chlorotic, sprinkle Iron Sulfate at the drip line on Valentine's Day and 4th of July. Iron Sulfate is not a fertilizer; it's a corrective for alkaline soil and alkaline water. If you missed the Memorial Day fertilizing, **DO IT NOW!**



Watch for aphids on plums and cherries, which disfigure leaves by causing them to curl. Spray with **Master Nursery® Nature's Pest-Fighter** or **Ortho® MAX® Malathion Insect Spray** or let the Soldier Beetles clean them out.

Brown rot and bacterial canker of apricots, peaches, nectarines, and plums manifests as dieback and/or oozing from short fruiting spurs or branch tips, a decrease in or absence of fruit production. While it is too late to spray for this disease this year, next year apply two additional **Bonide® Fung-onil™** sprays at pink bud and full bloom. When pruning this summer or next winter, you should remove dead or oozing wood. The ooze is an amber-color which occur any place along the branches or trunks. Some gardeners will mistakenly refer to the oozing as 'borer injury'. Borer injury will include wood frass which looks like sawdust. In severe cases, there may not be much tree left and you would be just as well to remove the tree.



Spray apple, pear and Pyracantha trees for Woolly Apple Aphids, which appear as a white cottony substance, usually in crevices, pruning cuts and at the base of the tree on roots. Use **Ortho® MAX® Malathion Insect Spray** or **GardenTech Sevin®**. The codling moth spray should cover this problem.



Paint deciduous fruit tree trunks to prevent sunscald with a white, water-based interior latex paint cut 50% with water. This is especially important for trees planted in blazing hot locations and those with thin bark (e.g. citrus).

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 scale, a sucking insect that usually clusters along fruit stems, new growth and the undersides of leaves. If scale is found, the U.C. Farm & Home Advisor recommends that scale be sprayed with **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil**. Three applications are necessary at two-week intervals.



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

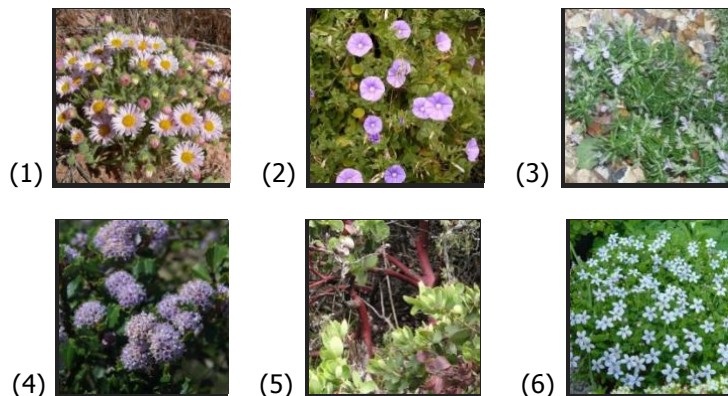
Never spray Horticultural Oil more than four times during the growing season or when 99daytime temperatures exceed 85°F. Ants running up and down the trunk often indicates the presence of scale, so look carefully as more than one kind of scale may be present.

Check also for snail damage.

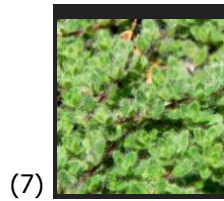
Fertilize citrus in March, May, July, and September with **Master Nursery® Citrus Food** or **Gardner & Bloome® Citrus & Fruit Tree Fertilizer**.

If your caneberries have finished producing, prune off the current year's growth (the parts which had berries this year) and start training the new growth onto its support.

GROUNDCOVERS



Be sure to water new plantings in full sun deeply every two to three days. (1) **erigeron**, (2) **convolvulus**, (3) **creeping rosemary**, (4) **ceanothus** and (5) **manzanita** are excellent groundcovers for hot, dry locations (though they do need water while becoming established). (6) **blue star creeper**, (7) **woolly thyme** and (8) **creeping chamomile** fill in nicely between steppingstones in full to part sun and can withstand some foot traffic. For the shade, try (9) **campanula**, (10) **sweet woodruff**, (11) **Vinca minor** or (12) **baby tears**.



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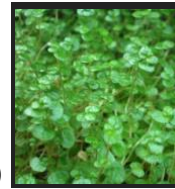
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Fertilize groundcovers with **Master Nursery® Formula 49™** twice a year, in February and July.

To ward off slugs and snails, bait with **Monterey Sluggo®** (safe for pets and people) or **Deadline®**.

LAWNS

The following are our recommendations for those gardeners continuing standard lawn care:

Set mowers to two and one-half to three inches for fescue and bluegrass lawns and one to one and one-half inches for Bermuda grass lawns. Consider leaving lawn clippings on the lawn. As clippings break down, they provide the lawn with nutrients, reducing the need for fertilizers by 30-50%. Clippings will not cause thatch.

Lawn seeded in July may need moisture up to three times a day so that germinating seeds do not dry out. Watch for slow or uneven germination. You may need to re-seed.

You may consider laying sod instead of seeding. Again, you will need to run irrigation systems two to three times a week during hot weather to prevent the roots from drying. For details on preparing an area for lawn installation, check our [Care Guide for Lawn Preparation](#). Sod orders placed with Wegman's usually take two-three days for delivery. Call us for details. Apply **Bayer Advanced Lawn™ Grub Control** or **Beneficial Nematodes** in May and July to control cutworms and lawn moths.



Apply Bayer Advanced Season Long Grub Control or **Beneficial Nematodes** now to control cutworms in Fall, when raccoons and skunks are tearing up the neighborhood in search of ground-dwelling grubs and cutworms. Your lawn will show minimal or no damage. **Beneficial Nematodes** are microscopic organisms which consume various destructive soil-dwelling insects, such as cutworms. They do not harm earthworms and are safe around pets and people.



Feed lawns with **Easy Livin' Master Green Lawn Food** or **Master Nursery® Master Green Weed & Feed**. For an organic product use **Gardner & Bloome® Lawn Fertilizer**. Use only one-half of the recommended amount of fertilizer this year. If you have Fall and 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, nutsedge and a host of other tenacious broadleaf weeds, use **Crab-E-Rad™ Plus**.

For Oxalis (the plant that looks like clover) and broadleaf weeds, use **Monterey Turflon® Ester**, a liquid that can be diluted and sprayed over entire lawns. Because Oxalis is so tenacious, two applications may be needed. If Oxalis has produced seed pods, apply a pre-emergent weed-killer now and in October. We like **Concern** brand, which is non-toxic, it contains a slow release fertilizer and is made from corn gluten.

PERENNIALS

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

Many of the ornamental grasses are beginning to flower. Check out **blue oat grass, Mexican feather grass and both the red and green forms of fountain grass.** Grasses lend an architecture and texture to the landscape unmatched by other plants. They are also drought-tolerant and deer-resistant.

Zonal geraniums are very susceptible to a rust fungus. This has been a bad year. There is no effective cure. Get rid of the plant before rust spreads to other geraniums. It does not spread to roses or other kinds of plants. DO NOT COMPOST!

Check out Day Lilies, liatrus, Shasta daisy, Agastache, Bee Balm, Baby's Breath, yarrow, penstemon, verbena, and coreopsis for the sun, and corydalis, sinningia, Jacob's ladder, Chinese Foxglove, campanula, heuchera, bacopa, and heliotrope for the shade.

A nice handful of sun-loving perennials double as both deer-resistant and drought-tolerant plants: Lavender, yarrow, the salvias, echinacea, Sea Lavender, Society Garlic, penstemon, and brachycome all provide excellent summer color in addition to these other practical attributes.

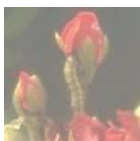
Spittlebugs generally make their homes on perennials and shrubs this time of year, looking literally like a wad of spit nestled in the leaves. Spray off with a strong stream of water, **Monterey Take Down Garden Spray** or with **Master Nursery® Nature's Pest Fighter**. These are the larva of leafhoppers, a sucking insect which can spread diseases.



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 that thrive on neglect. Many of the drought tolerant perennials (see above), for example, prefer not to be pampered with high nitrogen, high phosphorus fertilizers. Use very low phosphorus fertilizers such as **E.B. Stone™ Cottonseed Meal** (6-2-1) on your Australian plants.

Bait perennials with Monterey Sluggo® or Deadline® to control snails and slugs.

Now is the time to divide your bearded (German) iris. Fertilize them with **Master Nursery® Bulb Food** if you haven't already done so.



If geraniums, petunias, Nicotiana and penstemon look healthy but have no flowers, they may be infected with **budworms**. Look for tiny holes in the flower buds and small black specks (droppings) on the leaves. Spray once a week with **Monterey Garden Insect Spray, Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Juice** or **Monterey B.t.** until the problem is under control.

ROSES

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

Under normal conditions roses are heavy feeders and use a lot of water. With the drought, water and fertilizer may have to be reduced. The plants will survive but not be as floriferous as usual. See our [Care Guide for Conserving Garden Water for Trees, Shrubs and Roses](#).

Aphids can be controlled by blasting off with water or by spraying with **Safer® Yard & Garden Insect Killer**. You can also use **Ortho® MAX® Malathion Insect Spray, Garden Tech Sevin®** or **Master Nursery Year-Round Spray Oil**. If you use **Horticultural Oil**, do not apply more than 4 times during the growing season. Wait at least two weeks between applications. Note that oil may damage leaves during hot spells.





Watch for katydids and cucumber beetles, both of which chew on flower buds, leaving holes in flower petals. Treat as for aphids (see above, except do not water blast) or spray with **Monterey Garden Insect Spray**.



Rose weevils and curculios chew holes at the bases of flower 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.



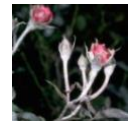
Rose slugs, the larva of a wasp, eat halfway or all the way through rose leaves. In severe cases, the leaf appears almost shredded. Control as for aphid except water blasting or spray with Spinosad (**Monterey Garden Insect Spray**).



You may also notice activity by 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.



Powdery Mildew appears as whitish splotches on the surface of leaves and on buds and stems. To control, use **Safer® Garden Fungicide**. If these measures aren't satisfactory, use **Bonide® Fung-onil™** or two tablespoons of **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** mixed with four tablespoons of **Horticultural Oil** in one gallon of water.



Rust appears as small yellow to black spots on the upper surface of leaves, which, when flipped, show rust-colored pustules. Use **Bonide® Fung-onil™** or **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** and **Horticultural Oil** to control.

Prevent weeds in rose beds by applying **Concern® All-Natural Weed Prevention Plus®**. This product contains corn gluten, which prevents seeds from germinating and contains 9% nitrogen, providing slow-release fertilization. **Never use Kleen-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.

Rub off leaf buds that are facing the center of the plant. This will redirect growth to outward buds and help keep the center of the rose bush open for air circulation. Watch also for sucker sprouts below the graft union and remove them where they attach to roots or trunk. Do not cut them off at ground level.



After blooming, prune climbers such as (1) **Cecile Brunner**, (2) **Belle of Portugal** and (3) **Lady Banks Roses**—which bloom only once a season.

Continue feeding with **Master Nursery® Rose & Flower Food** every other month. For an organic alternative, apply **Gardner & Bloome® Flower Fertilizer**, which contains alfalfa meal every other month. Alfalfa meal contains the chemical triacontanol, which spurs the formation of new canes. If you do not use an organic fertilizer, supplement your regime with alfalfa meal every March and July.

May and June mark the cut-off months for using systemic insecticides. By discontinuing use, you reduce the risk of disfiguring flowers and foliage.

Eliminate any roses which have performed poorly over the last couple of years. Arrange low angle sprinklers or drippers to water a six-foot diameter area around each bush. Water plants once a week at dawn for one-half to one hour or more if you can spare it.

Rose diseases have been severe this year. If you still have problems, use the products listed above. **Bonide® Fung-onil™** also controls black spot but when you avoid overhead watering, it will not spread. Badly infected leaves will fall off or can be picked off. Do not compost these leaves.



SHRUBS & VINES

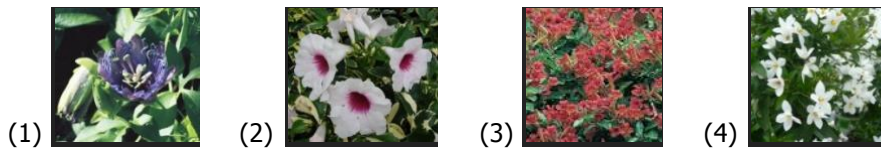
Time to deadhead azaleas and rhododendrons. Flowers and/or sepals should be dry enough to snap off by hand. If you have been troubled by petal blight, throw debris away in trash, do not compost. This is also the time to prune and shape these plants. You can cut azaleas down into woody stems and have them bloom next year.



Fuchsia gall mites create gnarled leaves with reddish blisters and are common on hybrid fuchsias. U.C. Davis recommends that if symptoms appear, prune out disfigured growth and spray with **GardenTech Sevin®** once a month. You can also begin a preventative program using **GardenTech Sevin®** once a month beginning in March. A recent garden column recommended spraying with horticultural oil for gall mites. Be advised...it does not work. 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.



Three of the fastest growing shrubs for hedges and screens are (1) **Black-twig Pittosporum**, (2) **Red-tip Photinia** and (3) **Purple Hopseed bush**. Left unpruned, each will reach approximately 20 feet tall and wide, but each can be maintained at 6 to 8 feet if desired. Remember to prune newly planted hedges seasonally, even if lightly. This will encourage plants to be bushy and dense.



(1) **Passion vines** erupt into color as the season heats up, offering unusual flowers in an array of bright, tropical colors. (2) **Bower Vine** and (3) **Scarlet Trumpet Vine** continue to bloom through mid-summer and make excellent companions to (4) **Potato Vine**, which blooms all summer.

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 Tree**, once a year if plant is in the ground or twice a year in a container or **Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew®** every three to four weeks. Do not use the **Bayer** product on edible food crops or other plants visited by bees.



Azalea gall appears as swollen leaves with white powder on them. Remove by pruning. Next spring, when new leaves of the azalea begin to emerge, spray with **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** (copper).

Watch for thrips and 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 **Monterey Garden Insect Spray** or **Ortho® MAX® Malathion Insect Spray** or **GardenTech Sevin®**.





Camellia golden ring spot virus manifests itself 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 be spread by pruning tools. Be sure to clean tools with Lysol or a 10% bleach solution between pruning shrubs.

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 with copper before the buds open, but camellias cannot.



Camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas should be fertilized when they finish blooming and one month later and one more month after that (three times total).

TREES



Summer blooming trees include (1) **Crape Myrtle**, (2) **Smoke Tree**, (3) **Chaste Tree**, (4) **Jacaranda** and (5) **Mimosa Tree**. **Crape Myrtles, Smoke trees and Chaste trees** are by nature multi-trunked, but many growers train them as standards, i.e. on a single trunk. Remember that the multi-trunked forms will not reach the same size as single trunk trees. **Jacaranda** is noted for its feathery semi-evergreen foliage and large plumes of purple flowers. **Mimosa** has similar foliage but is deciduous and sports a pink pom-pom flower.

If you're thinking of planting Crape Myrtle, consider planting only those with the Native American tribal names, such as Tuscarora, Hopi or Natchez. These varieties were hybridized specifically to resist powdery mildew. Otherwise, treat mildew twice with **sulfur** a week apart.

To prevent fruit flies on olives, liquidambar and ornamental plums, apply **Monterey Florel® Brand Growth Regulator** one time anytime during bloom. This will cause all the fruit to drop. Olives may become infested with the larvae of the Olive Fruit Fly. **Monterey Garden Insect Spray** contains Spinosad which is specific for the olive fruit fly and does not make the fruit inedible. See our [Olive Trees Care Guide](#) for more details.

For established trees that are isolated in the landscape or for those trees which seem chlorotic, use the **Ross® Root Feeder** to fertilize with a high nitrogen fertilizer (10-20-20). Water them monthly with the **Ross® Root Feeder** at the drip line if there is no irrigation system.

Don't panic about Sudden Oak Death. It has been fatal only to Tanbark Oak, Coast Live Oak, Black Oak and Canyon Live Oak when they are near forested areas. There are more than 110 different plants discovered to be carriers of the disease, but which show only minor symptoms. These range from redwoods, maples, manzanita, Bay Laurel, rhododendron and roses to loropetalum and oleander. If you have a California Bay Laurel growing within 40 feet of one of the Oaks listed above, remove the Bay Laurel.

VEGETABLES

You can still plant **tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, basil, green beans, and cucumbers** from starts. **Squash, corn** and **melons** are chancy. Remember to amend soil liberally, as vegetable crops deplete organic material from soils rather quickly. We like **Master Nursery® Gold Rush**, which includes chicken manure, giving plants a slow nitrogen boost. If you plant veggies in the same area each year, add **Master Nursery® Tomato and Vegetable Food** or **Gardner & Bloome® Vegetable Fertilizer** at the time of planting and one month later.



If you have had problems with verticillium wilt on tomatoes and potatoes, consider covering beds with clear, 2 mil plastic for 6-8 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 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** or **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil (Horticultural Oil)** every four days for 12 days. Consider using whitefly traps in conjunction with the sprays for more effective control. Also walk through the area with a hand-held vacuum cleaner and bump the plants to make the whiteflies fly around and then vacuum up these flying reproductive adults.



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

Plant artichokes through July from four-inch pots or one-gallon pots. Allow a four-foot square, sunny garden space for each 'choke'.

Cool season greens, such as **lettuce, spinach, cilantro, chard, and mustard** can be planted through the summer in morning sun locations. During the longer daylight hours, they will go to seed more quickly, so plan on planting more frequently.

OTHER THINGS TO DO

Spread two to four inches of mulch over garden beds. Mulch materials can include **Fir bark, Forest Blend,** pine needles, **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** or leaves, 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 and contribute to the soil not becoming too hot. Using "Gorilla Hair" (shredded redwood bark), because it hinders the passage of water.

Consider utilizing beneficial insects in lieu of insecticides this summer. **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, five to seven days apart. Store the remaining ladybugs in the vegetable crisper (Be careful not to use them on salads!). Set out shallow dishes of water along with plant parts covered with aphids. These props will encourage ladybugs to stick around. **Praying mantises** 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 and shade gardens which include Rhododendrons and around citrus. Apply April/May or again in July. As all of these are living creatures, remember not to apply insecticides in their midst, as they will be killed.

Are you remembering to keep water available to encourage birds to visit your garden where they will eat their weight in bugs each week? If you rinse your containers weekly, there will not be a mosquito problem.

Container plants must be fertilized with an appropriate granular fertilizer monthly. For how much fertilizer, remember the formula: Measure the container in inches, divide that number by six and scatter that many tablespoons of suitable fertilizer (e.g. citrus, vegetable, etc.), over the surface of the soil in the container.

Consider watering indoor plants with a solution of two tablespoons vinegar to one gallon of water once a month in order to reduce salt build-up and reduce the pH of Hetch Hetchy water (pH 8-10).

Remember! You cannot mix up a batch of spray with water and then save the unused portion because it starts to decompose within two hours. Dump it into a flower bed or on the lawn and rinse out the spray tank.

There are more than 4,000 different native species of bees in North America, all of which are good pollinators. Encourage them by planting **sedums, crocosmia, coreopsis, goldenrod, yarrow, penstemon, fennel, linden, rudbeckia, dogwood, lavender, rosemary and legumes.**

Many gardeners have started using coffee grounds from Starbucks or Peet's as a soil amendment. This is okay but no more than twice a year because most plants are susceptible to caffeine poisoning.

Sharp pruning tools make clean cuts that heal quickly. Check out our **Pruning Tool Renovation Service,** which includes cleaning and sharpening and replacing missing parts. If you're unsure whether we can service your tools, bring them in for assessment.

Recently a garden column suggested that Scrub Jays were beneficial because they ate snails. Sorry, but all the symptoms described were those of roof rats feasting on the snails. Snails are a favorite food of roof rats and you can find many snail shells with holes lying around wood piles, and ivy beds where the rats hang out.

A word on Monterey Garden Insect Spray: We have become favorably impressed with **Monterey Garden Insect Spray** which has Spinosad as its active ingredient. This is a step up from **Monterey B.t.** and is listed favorably by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI).

Beware of those radio ads which proclaim that their potting soil is not 'just dirt'. Please compare their product to Master Nursery® Gardener's Gold Potting Soil. A good potting soil should have an absolute minimum of six ingredients. **Master Nursery® Gardener's Gold Potting Soil** has nine; theirs has five and is 'just plain dirt' compared to **Wegman's Gardener's Gold.** (The potting soil sold by the big box store with the railroad calendars has only three!)

Please Remember: Before you buy an insecticide, herbicide or fungicide, read what the product will do, where it is to be used, how you will have to use it, and does it do what you want it to? Does it have any special warnings?