



# JULY GARDENING TIPS

## WATER, WATER, WATER

### ANNUALS

- Shear back leggy annuals and give them some fertilizer and water to promote new, fuller growth.
- Vinca (periwinkle), torenia, begonia, purslane/portulaca, and a few more hot-weather-loving annuals can still be planted.

### TURF

- Be hyper-vigilant about watching the lawn for signs of chinch bugs. Lawns can be destroyed quickly by these soil-dwelling pests. They always present themselves in the hottest, sunniest areas of your turf. (Treat with insecticides that have Imidacloprid as main ingredient like Bayer Advanced Insect and Grub)
- If you've suffered from gray leaf spot in your St. Augustine, avoid nitrogen fertilizer mid June to September to help reduce outbreaks. Apply labeled fungicides to control; multiple applications may be needed.

### FRUIT

- Citrus can still be bought. It should grow for about 4 years in a pot so it can be easily and well protected from the cold of winter during its early years.
- Blackberry pruning is essential for future production. Prune this month if you didn't do it last month, for plants that produced fruit this year.

### TREES & SHRUBS

- Not a good time to plant these right now. hold off until fall for the absolute best time to plant trees and shrubs.
- Even established trees may need 'rescue-watering'. This is a slow soaking method to use when we have gone days and weeks during the heat, without sufficient rain. Use keyword 'rescue watering' in our search button on our website.

### PERENNIALS

- Hardy Hibiscus still push out beautiful blooms through the summer heat. Unlike their tropical family members, these come back each year!
- Prune back overgrown perennials that may fall or topple over before having a chance to bloom in fall. A long, soaking watering is needed afterwards.
- Don't freak out if your perennials aren't quite performing the way you want this month, the heat shuts down the production and growth of many plants. Water thoroughly (soil should be moist 4"- 6" down) and focus on babying them this month and next.

### VEGGIES AND HERBS

- Pot up some of your seeds for fall veggie transplants (yes, really). You don't have to grow them inside like you do for early spring. Just put them in a place with a tiny bit of morning sun and afternoon shade and keep them moist.
- Pumpkins can be planted in the early weeks of July for harvest in fall months
- Avoid drought stress on herbs, check and replace mulch layers, and pinch back blossoms.
- By the end of the month, start looking for tomato transplants for fall. Yikes! Unbelievable, but true. Bump them up to a larger sized pot and allow them to grow a root system while being protected from the sun in a shadier area.