



# Summer Garden Guide

## Water, Water, Water!

We just can't stress enough how important it is to keep your plants watered. It is *especially* important that new plantings be watered regularly - about 1" per week when there is little rainfall. You may need to vary the amount for different plants. It is best to water slowly and deeply. Check with one of our horticulturalist for more details.

Consider one of the many irrigation systems, both temporary and permanent.

## Clip, Cut, Clean

These are fun and rewarding tasks if you like to be outside. If you have not pruned spring blooming trees and shrubs do so after the flowers fade and before the 4th of July, or you could be removing next year's blooms.

Mid-summer is also the time to trim and correct branches on birch, horsechestnut, lindens and maples. You can also shape most evergreens. Instead of shearing, try selective pruning to with clippers to maintain a more natural habit.

Deadheading can be great fun and encourage another set of flowers for many perennials. This is when your shearers may come in handy. Many perennials like to be cut back harshly to help revive them. You can refrain from deadheading closer to fall so your garden has some winter interest.

Feel free to stop by or call the garden center for more specific guidelines for individual plants.

## Plant, Transplant, Divide

Keep on planting. There are many misconceptions about planting in the heat of the summer. Summer is a great time to plant! There is plenty of time to get them established as long as you provide enough water.

August is a great time to divide many perennials. It is best to wait for a cloudy day or when rain is in the forecast to help with the transplant shock.

## Bugs, Slugs and Fungus

Keep and eye on potential disease and insect problems. Let one of our experienced staff members help you diagnose and find a solution before it becomes a major problem.

## Plan, Plant, Watch, Learn, & Enjoy

Gardening is a process and a learning experience. Even the most experienced gardener or landscaper will tell you that they are constantly learning from their experiences in the garden.

Gardening can bring a very satisfying sense of accomplishment. Adding plants and color to your surroundings, inside and outdoors, has a calming effect and improves your quality of life.

It is best to establish a landscape plan to give you an idea where to start. Don't be afraid to experiment and move your plants around until they find the perfect home. This is especially true with perennials.

Some of our most enjoyable experiences are not in the dirt at all, but sharing ideas, stories and plants with other gardeners and friends.

Take time to stop. And smell the roses.

### Special points of interest:

- *Make sure you are keeping up with water needs*
- *Maintain 2-3 inches of mulch on planting beds*
- *Pull weeds before they go to seed*
- *In June, pinch fall flowering plants to encourage full foliage*
- *Mid August is a great time to over seed your lawn*
- *Towards the end of summer, hold off on fertilizing to help harden off the plants for winter.*