

# June Garden Calendar

by Stasis Perryman

You have your garden planted and it looks amazing. Whether you have an acre of veggies or some tomatoes and dahlias in patio pots there are still plenty to do in the garden. So here is some timely advice on garden chores, fertilizing, pest control, and more. These tips are not necessarily applicable to all areas of Southeastern Virginia. For more information, contact your local extension office.

## Watering

Monitor the rain amounts and provide water when needed. Plants in pots and raised bed garden will need to be watered more frequently than in the ground plants. Newly planted seedlings or seeds will need to be kept moist to develop and grow.

## Fertilizing

Top dress plants in the garden with compost or well rotten manure. Or use a liquid fertilizer at half strength twice as often for potted plants and hanging baskets. Plan on getting your soil tested so you can better plan soil amendments.

## Weeding

Keep your eye out for weeds so they don't compete with your desirable plants for soil nutrients. Pull and dispose of weeds; don't leave debris in the garden as it can harbor undesirable pest and pathogens. Mulch your beds, as this can prevent weeds from germinating and will make weeding easier. Use a hoe and other garden tools to cut the roots under the soil level. Dig out weeds with taproots. If weeding doesn't work, and before using herbicides; try less stringent methods first, such as vinegar spray or salt spray.

## Staking and Trellising

Don't forget to provide support for plants that grow tall. Cages around the tomatoes, trellises for vining plants and stakes for foxgloves, dahlias and the likes will prevent fruit on the ground and broken stems.

## Maintenance

Prune Spring flower shrub after they bloom. Harvest those early crops, lettuce, radishes and strawberries. Pinch out tomato suckers. Look for signs of pest and pathogens. Learn about beneficial insects. Learn about pollinators. Plant flowers for the pollinators. Inspect and re-pot indoor houseplants and move outside for some fresh air. Enjoy the fruits of your labor.