

Weather Averages:

Temperature: High 88.4 Low 64.5

Precipitation: 4.3 inches

Lawn & Garden

Give landscape plants a second feeding of fertilizer by July 15.

Continue sidedressing your garden vegetables.

Take soil samples from your lawn areas for testing. Soil Sample kits are available at the Cooperative Extension office.

Brussel sprouts and collards can be set out in mid-July.

You can begin your fall vegetable garden. Plant beans, carrots and tomatoes in July.

Start broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower plants in peat pots to transplant in mid-August.

Remember to change direction when mowing your lawn. Travel north/south one mowing and go east/west on the next.

Continue fertilizing your warm season grasses.

Do NOT fertilize tall fescue now.

July is an ideal time to divide and transplant your iris.

This is still a great time to take cuttings of azalea, camellia, holly, rhododendron and many other shrubs. Cuttings taken in June or July will root better than those taken later in the year.

July

Pruning

Prune bleeder trees as needed. Maple, Birch, Dogwood, Elm, etc.

Roses - prune leggy plants ONLY and fertilize after pruning for fall flowering.

Hedges - prune as needed.

Brambles - (Blackberry and Raspberry) Prune out the wood that bore fruit. Cut canes to ground level.

Blueberries - prune to desired height.

Continue pruning white pines and narrowleaf evergreens like juniper early in the month.

Remove faded flowers on Crape Myrtle and flowering perennials to encourage flowering.

Shear red-tip photinia the last week of July or the first week of August for red foliage in winter.

Pinch chrysanthemums the first week only!

Do Not prune spring flowering shrubs now.



Other Chores:

Spray the following landscape shrubs for the following insects: aborvitae and juniper (bagworm), crape myrtle (aphid), azalea and pyracantha (lace bug).

Spray for Japanese beetles as needed.

Spray Crape Myrtle for powdery mildew.

Continue with rose spray program.

Keep spraying your tree fruits and bunch grapes with a pest control program.

Spray the following vegetables if insects are observed: cucumber (cucumber beetle); squash (aphids); tomato and eggplant (flea beetle).

Spray woody weeds like poison ivy, honeysuckle and kudzu with recommended herbicide.

July is a good month to see if and where your home can use some additional shade trees.

Blossom-end rot may be seen on tomatoes this month. Two factors can cause this - too little water and/or too little lime in the soil.

In dry weather, both your vegetable garden and landscape plants will benefit from a good soaking watering. Slow watering will penetrate the root zone better.

Begin repotting overgrown houseplants.