



BELLEVUE
N · U · R · S · E · R · Y



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SUMMER Checklist



Water: Your primary concern will be assuring an ample supply of water for your plants. A good rule of thumb for summer watering is to water thoroughly and deeply each time and to allow the soil dry out between watering. Light, surface watering wastes water, because the water never actually reaches the root zone of the plant, and the moisture rapidly evaporates from the top inch of soil. Check containers and hanging baskets daily. They may need more frequent watering.

Plant: Continue to plant trees, shrubs, perennials. Watch night time temperatures and plant warm-season annual flowers, vegetables, and herbs.

Feed: Fertilize flowering shrubs like rhodies, azaleas and camellias immediately after they have finished flowering. Continue to feed hungry plants like roses and dahlias with a good organic fertilizer. Annuals pump out gorgeous displays of color for us all summer, so reward them with regular snacks!

Harvest: Enjoy whatever is ready to eat! Plant successions of salad crops and basil for continued feasting throughout the summer. Sow seeds for cool-season crops directly into the garden by mid-July. Fertilize June bearing strawberries after the harvest, and ever-bearing varieties half way through the season. Share with your bird buddies or use netting around fruiting shrubs.

Prune: Prune spring-blooming shrubs and trees as soon as possible after bloom. You can continue to prune evergreen shrubs up to late summer.

Support: Stake tall plants while they're still a foot or so high. Install stakes and trellises at the same time you plant vines and indeterminate tomato plants.

Weed: Fight the good fight! Slice the tops off small weed seedlings with a sharp hoe on a warm, dry morning, and let them lie where they fall. The sun will kill them by evening. Water deeply (or wait for a rainy day!) before you pull mature weeds so that taproots come out more easily. Many weeds are already flowering and going to seed. Eliminate them before this happens, otherwise you will be fighting those weed seeds for a long time!

Mulch: If you haven't already, apply a layer of mulch on flower beds and around trees and shrubs once the soil has warmed sufficiently. Mulch reduces weeds, conserves moisture, and prevents disease. Great stuff!

Pest Patrol: Keep an eye out also for aphids and other small sucking insects. Treat with insecticidal soap or ladybugs. Continue slug and snail control. Watch for early and late blight on tomatoes. Prevent with a calcium-enriched fertilizer and pruning for air circulation. Pick off affected leaves, and/or treat with fungicide.