

Timely Turf Tips

JUNE 2012

June is an amazing month in Minnesota- perhaps the most enjoyable one of all with generally nice weather and the fast rate of growth of plants in our gardens. It is definitely a month when there is a lot to enjoy in our gardens. Early season vegetables are ready for harvest and our ornamental plants are growing strong. In the midst of everything going on, please don't forget to take time to relax and "smell the roses" or plant an exotic pepper plant. Word on the street is Steve's the one to see for a great selection of peppers. This year he has chosen over 200 varieties of sweet and hot peppers. Now who wouldn't want to grow 'Brazilian Star Fish', Chinese Giant or Hungarian Sweet?! Peppers are easy to grow. Steve plants his peppers from June 7 – 22. For more information on how to grow peppers: <http://tinyurl.com/d3h65wa> or ask Steve aka Dr. Pepper!

June is the time to monitor, maintain and, finally, start reaping what you've sown. These chores will help ensure you keep on top of things every day of the month.

- Got crabgrass? Watch for our separate email next week on how to solve this pertinacious problem.
- Finish planting annuals in containers and in bare spots in your garden. Large greenhouses will still have lots of selection at the beginning of the month.
- Monitor plant containers for water daily; their soil dries out more quickly than the garden's.
- For better-blooming, stockier plants, trim the top third off chrysanthemums and Joe Pye weed.
- Clean birdbaths at least once a week. We have gorgeous ceramic bird baths for your yard.
- Plant seeds that like warm soil. Sow corn, squash, cucumbers and melon seeds or seedlings now.
- Plant tomato, eggplant and pepper seedlings now. Stake or cage tomatoes after planting.
- Plant herbs in pots or in the garden close to the kitchen. Most prefer full sun and well drained soil.
- Pull weeds as soon as they appear.
- Thin vegetable seedlings like beans, carrots, beets to recommended spacing. I know it's tough to do but it will pay off with larger, more productive plants. Try adding the pulled beet seedlings to salads.
- Protect strawberries from birds with netting or floating row covers.
- It's time to harvest cool-season crops like lettuce, radish, spinach and peas. Pick and use the outer leaves of leaf lettuce as soon as they reach 4"-6". Harvest spinach plants as the outer leaves reach 6"-8". Remove larger plants until all the spinach is harvested. Pull radishes when they are of usable size (usually starting when roots are less than 1 inch in diameter) and relatively young. Radishes remain in edible condition for only a short time before they become pithy (spongy) and hot.



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