

Top Ten List-July

1. **Fertilize** the garden with Bumper Crop Fertilizers-All organic with mycorrhizae added for an extra boost. Vegetable plants and summer annuals thrive on regular fertilizer applications because they grow so much in one season.
2. Tomatoes will crack due to uneven moisture levels in the soil. **Water your tomatoes** in the morning instead of afternoon and evening for best results. Ensure that the soil has high organic matter which helps **combat dryness & promote root growth**.
3. **Check your drip system-each emitter!** Running your drip system once a week for 6 to 8 hours on established plants usually works best. If runoff is occurring, reduce the size of the emitter. Plants have roots where drippers are and if you move the water, then those feeder roots die. Add one emitter to every tree in your yard 3 feet past any existing emitters.
4. Apply **Osmocote** fertilizer to your houseplants. Switch to a high phosphate orchid food to produce flowers for the next 6 months. Move your houseplants out to the east side of your house and flush with excess water to remove any buildup of minerals and salts.
5. Refresh the **Barely Bale** in your pond to keep string algae away. Test your pond water for pH, salts and nitrogen levels. Fertilize your water lilies with an approved pond fertilizer and/or **Jobe's Organic Fertilizer Spikes**.

6. June & July is the best time to **prune fruit trees**. You may lose some fruit, but the tree heals faster, with minimal water growth (upright, unproductive cluster of weak, fast-growing branches). **Net** your apricot, cherry, peach and plum trees now so the birds don't get all the fruit! Try scare tape to deter the birds.

7. Check your cherry & pear trees for a small green slug with a black head. Look on the surface of the leaves. This leaf slug-**Pearsylla** is easily controlled with an insecticidal spray on the 4th and again on the 15th.

8. **Fungus** is in full swing on the lawn, roses, junipers, pines, spruce, spiraeas, beebalm & summer phlox. Spray once a week for 3 weeks and use a different fungicide at least one time.

9. Spray **Sevin** on the elm trees to get the second hatch of elm leaf beetles. Control earwigs, boxelders, ant and other chewing insects with **Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew**.

10. **Plant** another crop of carrots, beans, radishes and New Zealand Spinach so you have even more homegrown produce to enjoy.