

President's Corner – July 2022

We are coming into the very hot days of summer. It requires that we water plants almost daily to keep them healthy. I just came in from my 6:30 a.m. watering of flowers and vegetables in pots and in ground, cleaning out the birdbath and filling it with water, and performing other general gardening duties. Best to get it done early before the heat of the day.

There are several tips from the **Missouri Botanical Garden** for July. They remind us to keep those birdbaths full of water (a note: the birds can be very entertaining to watch as they splatter around in the water). It's time to remove infected rose leaves and use fungicidal sprays on the plants and on hardy phlox as needed. They suggest fertilizing plants in containers every couple of weeks with a water-soluble solution. Don't forget to deadhead your flowers—it may bring a second bloom and it makes the garden look tidier. Also keep the weeds down so they don't go to seed. Now is the time to divide bearded iris. If you want your mums to flower in early fall, don't pinch them back after mid-month.

Costa Farms, in Florida, also has 10 handy tips for things to do in July. While some of it may be specific to that region, there is some helpful garden information for you here. You can check that out here: <https://costafarms.com/get-growing/news/10-things-to-do-in-your-garden-in-july>

For those of you who have problems with deer, this article on deer resistant plants and flowers from **GardenDesign** might be helpful, <https://www.gardendesign.com/plants/deer-resistant.html>. Also here are some hints to keep rabbits from the garden, <https://www.gardendesign.com/how-to/rabbits.html>. Rabbits are problematic in my garden, and I personally use blood and bone meal to deter them. It seems to be as effective as anything else tried, and a bonus is that it fertilizes the plants. This article from **The Spruce** discusses these natural deterrents and gives some additional recommendations for ways to discourage rabbits from creating havoc in your garden: <https://www.thespruce.com/controlling-and-deterring-rabbits-1402144>.

Several virtual programs of interest are available this month:

July 12 – 1:30 – 2:30. Identifying Common Lawn and Garden Weeds. Presented by the University of Illinois Extension as part of their Four Seasons Garden Webinar series. Find it at: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=25788>

July 13 – 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Insect ID for the Home Gardener. Presented by **Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House**. Learn more about bees in our area. Register at: <https://www.slcl.org/content/virtual-program-insect-id-home-gardener>

July 14 – 2:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. Summer Pruning for Tree and Cane Fruit. Presented by Seed St. Louis. Register at: <https://slcl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=298260>.

Finally, the **Ecological Landscape Alliance** has a webinar series called **A Walk in the Garden**. The recordings range from **The Gardens of Paris** through **Specialist Bees**. To date, there are 12 recordings in the series. You can find the recordings for each presentation here: <https://www.ecolandscaping.org/a-walk-in-the-garden-a-webinar-series>.