

Gardener's Corner July 2023

As I am writing, we are expecting much needed rain. Although it may be problematic for a holiday picnic, rain will really help the gardens during this extremely dry spell.

Some of the **Missouri Botanical Garden's (MBG)** tips and tasks for the month of July include paying attention to fungus on roses and even hardy phlox. For roses, remove and discard infected leaves and use a fungicidal spray as needed. The sprays can also be used to prevent powdery mildew on your hardy phlox. Continue deadheading your flowers, especially annuals so that they continue to bloom. Be mindful that birds need water, too, so keep some available for them in this heat.

MBG suggests if you have recently planted trees and/or shrubs, they need to be thoroughly watered once a week. It also recommends not applying fertilizers to trees and shrubs after July 4th to help prevent winter kill because of lush growth.

If you are a sunflower aficionado, visit the beautiful plantings at Missouri Bottoms Conservation area. It is quite a stunning sight. You can find more information about this at: <https://mdc.mo.gov/newsroom/sunflower-bloom-expected-july-august-columbia-bottom-conservation-area-despite-drought>

Plagued by Japanese beetles? The **University of Minnesota Extension's** *Yard and Garden News* has a good article about managing these annoying creatures. Although they are written for Minnesota conditions, they have some good hints on controlling infestations here. You can read it here: <https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/managing-japanese-beetle-feeding>. They also have some good tips for gardening through the hot summer months: <https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/hot-weather-gardening-tips>

Garden Design has 13 great tips on how to water your summer garden. Find the article here: https://www.gardendesign.com/how-to/summer-watering.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Summer-Watering-6-30-22

Some programs of interest in July include the following:

Wednesday, July 5, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. *K-State Garden Hour: Solutions to Your Top Garden Insect & Disease Problems Horticulture and Natural Resources*, **Kansas State University Extension**. Insects, diseases, and weather related problems are always an issue in the landscape & garden. https://ksu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IXIjvtedRu-pvfFA6Kzvxw#/registration

Tuesday, July 11, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. *More than Shade: Explore Summer Blooming Trees* offered by the **University of Illinois Extension**. Register at: <https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/four-seasons-gardening-webinar-summer-blooming-trees-7-11-23>