

Gardener's Corner

June 2025

As I write this, it's the first day of June and our temperatures are in the 80's. If this weather continues, it's going to be a hot summer after a difficult spring that brought low temperatures and devastating tornados. Let's hope for more moderate weather conditions for this month and all of summer.

Some tasks and tips for June from the **Missouri Botanical Garden** may help your garden thrive. They note that now is the time to look for bagworms on trees, particularly junipers and arborvitae. If you find them, pick them off and dispose of them (More about bagworms and their treatment from a University of Nebraska Extension publication, <https://extensionpubs.unl.edu/publication/g1951/na/html/view>).

To assure as many blooms as possible next year on trees and shrubs that flower in spring, pruning should be done before the end of June. The effect of pruning too late may cut off next year's blooms. If you notice lace bug damage (bronzing or stippling) on the upper side of azaleas and other plants, you can remove these bugs with a strong stream of water.

If the unreliable weather has kept you from planting warm season vegetables, there is still time to do so. Such vegetables as beans, cucumbers, edamame, eggplants, melons, okra, peppers, summer squash, sweet potatoes, basil and tomatoes can be planted through June.

Do you have blue flowers in your garden? **Garden Design** notes that blue flowers are relatively rare and make up less than 10% of plant blooms. In their article entitled *20 Beautiful Blue Flowers for Your Garden*, you can find some good information about plants with blue blossoms. Many will be familiar to you and may already be in your garden; others you may want to try growing to give additional color. You can find the information here: <https://www.gardendesign.com/flowers/blue.html> Another article from **The Spruce**, *37 Best Garden Plants With Blue Flowers*, has some of the same plants and also less familiar ones. You can find these at: <https://www.thespruce.com/blue-flowers-1402304> Both articles give some basic information such as planting zone, light exposure, etc. so that you will be able to decide whether and how to grow blue beauties in your garden.

The **University of Minnesota Extension** has a handy gardener's guide to identify problems on its *What's Wrong with my Plant* garden site. This guide can give you a way to quickly check for problems caused by insects, diseases and nonliving factors you may encounter by type of plant (flowers, vegetables, trees, etc.). Find it at: <https://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/plant/>

Some virtual programs of interest in June are the following:

June 5, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM. *Ask the Experts About Edible Perennials*, a program given by experts at the **National Garden Bureau**. Register at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cdkWXAtKS4S--THdXwqu6g#/registration

And be sure to check out their other Great Garden Webinars that can be accessed at

<https://ngb.org/great-garden-webinars/>

June 26, 11:00 AM-1:00 p.m. PM. *The Flight Garden at the National Air and Space Museum* is part of the Let's Talk Gardens series through the **Smithsonian Gardens**. It describes the revitalization of the Museum's garden. Register at:

https://smithsonian.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GSCtXMNcR96sgq0Tgale8A#/registration