

## July Gardening Calendar

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The big news for the month is that the drought of 2018 continues and many communities in the Region are back in drought restrictions. If your community has drought restrictions follow the rules.

Even if your community does not implement drought restrictions, Gardeners can provide leadership by being as efficient as possible in all irrigation. Use drip irrigation whenever possible. It is very efficient and the best for plants because the water does not spray all over the foliage. Soaker hoses are the green plastic hoses that put out a fine spray when used right side up. They are leaky hoses when you turn them over so that the water seeps directly on the ground. Ideally a leaky hose can be used at low pressure (one half turn) so the water just sweats or leaks out just as efficiently as drip irrigation.

It is important to correct leaks and never allow water to be wasted by letting it run down the road. To deal with uneven application rates and problem spots in the lawn, supplement sprinkler irrigation with hand watering. Also use hand watering for containers and for newly planted trees and shrubs.

The Drought Restrictions are a reasonable way to deal with drought without our communities having to own access to huge amounts of extra water that would only be needed in drought times but would have to be paid for all the time.

Tomato plants should be at the end of their production period for the spring. Harvest the remaining full-size fruit and then pull the plants to make room for new plants later in the month. If there is evidence of spider mites on any of the spent plants, discard them in the garbage rather than the compost pile. The spider mites find their way on to the new plants if the infected plants are discarded too close to the garden.

For the fall seek out transplants of the heat-setting and or short season producers. Varieties such as Phoenix, Sunbrite, HM 1823, 444, Red Deuce, BHN 968, Bobcat, Valley Cat, Surefire, and Roma Surprise. If you have nematodes in your soil use Celebrity or Valley Cat

If your lawn was infested by grubs last year and you did not treat it with a soil insecticide in June, do it as soon as possible this month. If you wait too long the grubs reach full size and quit feeding. The damage will be done before you can control them. The same soil insecticide will control chinch bugs. Follow label instructions.

Sand bur plants can be popped out of the lawn or garden with the tip of your shovel, or you can apply one of the Image products. Review the label instructions to make sure it will work to kill the sand burs in the situations that exist in your landscape. There are several Image formulas and some versions that include more active ingredients than just Imazaquin, are difficult to use to kill sand burs.

Purple martin young fledge in July. Sometime in the month the martins will congregate at central assembly points before they head to South America. I don't know if it is a coincidence, but the butterfly populations seem to increase in July as well. Make sure you have plenty of zinnias, milkweed, mistflower, porterweed, lantana, and salvia for nectar sources.

You can replace zinnias with new transplants if they decline from mildew, but it is usually easier to let them drop seed, which will quickly germinate for new plants. The seed eating birds, such as lesser goldfinches and cardinals also like the seeds almost as much as sunflowers. Let them harvest the seeds from spent flowers in both plants.