

What to Do in June 2026

June 7 - 13

Perennials: Finish planting new perennials soon so they can begin to become established before the hottest days of summer. New perennials may benefit from regular watering depending on rainfall. Apply an inch of water per week including rain.

Flowers: Seeds of fast-growing annuals can still be sown, such as cosmos, marigolds, nasturtiums, phlox and zinnias directly in the garden. Calla lilies, caladium, canna, dahlia and other tender ornamentals can also be planted now.

Fruits and Vegetables: Plant pumpkins now so they're ready for Halloween. Fruit trees may naturally shed some immature fruit during the "June drop." Thinning remaining fruit can enhance quality, size and color, and prevent the tree from bearing every other year due to the stress of supporting too many fruits in a given season. To do this, remove injured and insect infested fruit first, then take off all but the largest fruit per cluster. Spacing for apples should be 4 to 6 inches, peaches 4 to 8 inches, and plums 4 inches apart. Cherries do not need to be thinned.

Trees and Shrubs: Prune spring-flowering trees and shrubs right after their flowers fade, and before next year's flower buds are set. To slow the growth of true pines, pinch back the "candles" before the needles have fully opened. Slow or shape spruces by pruning lightly after a flush of new growth. Beyond a light shaping, wait until early spring to make significant pruning cuts. Hire an arborist to work on large trees.

Lawns: Avoid fertilizer applications in hot weather, especially if the soil is dry. Fertilizers are often best done at Memorial Day and Labor Day; however, fertilizers should only be applied with advice from a soil test. Contact your local Cooperative Extension for advice.

Houseplants: If you plan to bring houseplants outdoors for a summer vacation, you can do this now. Many houseplants typically like bright light indoors but appreciate shaded conditions outside. To prevent scorching, make sure the plants are acclimated to outdoor conditions and shaded from strong afternoon sun.

June 14 - 20

Perennials: Fall is the best time to divide many early blooming perennials that have grown too crowded or large for their space, but heat and drought resistant types may be used now if they receive adequate water over the remainder of the season. If plants appear temporarily droopy or stressed, lightly shading them can help promote establishment.

Flowers: Encourage window boxes and planters to stay in bloom all summer by being vigilant about deadheading spent blooms. Fertilize as needed according to label directions.

Fruits and Vegetables: Finish planting warm-season vegetables like cucumbers, eggplants, peppers, squash and tomatoes, especially types that are slow to mature. Faster maturing varieties – those that are ready in under 10 weeks – can be planted through mid-July. Harvest strawberries now. For full flavor, pick the berries a day or two after they become fully colored. Continue to remove weeds that pop up at the edges of mulched areas and elsewhere. Weeding in small limited areas on a rotation may reduce overload, burnout and soreness. Using a small-sized bucket and stopping when full can help limit the weeding work.

Trees and Shrubs: Finish shaping evergreen shrubs and hedges by early July. Prune spent roses back as needed.

Lawns: Mow grass to a height of at least 3 ½ to 4 inches. Longer grass leaf blades can produce deeper roots, but overly tall grass may be difficult to mow. To set the height of the mower, put it on a flat surface, measure the distance from the ground to the blade and adjust accordingly, or if it cannot be set as much as 4 inches, use the highest setting.

Houseplants: Houseplants and container plants that need to be watered daily or more often may benefit from fertilizer every few weeks this time of year. Follow label directions.

June 21 - 27

Perennials: Continue to pinch back mums and other fall blooming perennials until the Fourth of July so they stay bushy and in bloom. Monitor newly planted perennials for water and heat stress. Most perennials thrive with 1-inch of water including rain, but water according to the needs of specific plants if they prefer wetter or drier conditions. Newly planted sun-loving plants that wilt slightly during the day may be protected with shade cloth or lath, placed above but not touching, until well-established.

Flowers: For late-blooming flowers in the border, plant cosmos, marigold, nasturtium, and zinnia seeds before early July. Containers of all types benefit from regular fertilizer to replace nutrients that are leached out as they are watered. Follow label directions.

Fruits and Vegetables: Plant warm-season vegetables like cucumber, eggplant, pepper, okra, squash and tomatoes, especially those that are slower to mature. Faster-maturing varieties (that can be ready in under 10 weeks) can be planted through mid-July. Squash vine borers may be finished laying eggs soon, and fast-maturing varieties of summer squash planted at this time may escape injury.

Trees and Shrubs: Finish shaping evergreen shrubs and hedges by early July. Continue to look on all woody plants and shrubs for the three D's: dead, damaged or diseased branches and remove them. If indicated by a soil test, fertilize roses after the first blooms have peaked.

Lawns: Grass clippings act as a natural fertilizer for the lawn; if they don't form clumps, leave them on the grass and save money, time, and hassle of disposal. Grass roots normally begin to degrade as growth slows in the heat. Watering frequency can be transitioned from a single application of 1-inch per week including rainfall to ½ inch, applied twice weekly. Cool season grasses will become dormant in the summer, and may brown in hot weather but recover in full when weather cools, even without a change in water levels.

Houseplants: Summer begins this week. As it gets hotter, remember to continually monitor the soil moisture of houseplants vacationing outdoors. More water than normal may be needed.

June 28 – July 4

Perennials: Are some plants stretching toward the light? Nearby trees may have grown and are now casting too much shade. Are others looking bleached or burnt? Changes in the landscape such as the loss of a mature tree can create an opening with too much sun. Use lath or shade cloth to provide temporary protection from the sun. Scout out better conditions for plants whose light conditions have changed. Move late blooming plants early next spring.

Flowers: Shady areas often benefit from a pop of color right about now. Consider planting light-colored tuberous begonias, and plants with variegated leaves. Many caladiums have colorful leaves that could be mistaken for flowers.

Fruits and Vegetables: Continue to plant successions of string beans, callaloo, chard, and other fast-maturing, heat-resistant crops. Start seeds for a fall crop of broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower indoors, or outside in a protected spot in the next few weeks. In late July through August, with access to regular irrigation or watering, transplant those seedlings into the garden. If needed, provide some shade until the seedlings establish and cooler weather returns. Continue picking strawberries when fully ripe.

Trees and Shrubs: Propagating native shrubs like hydrangea, St. John's wort, summersweet (*Clethra*), Virginia sweetspire (*Itea*), and others, can be done at this time as a challenge. Take softwood cuttings as spring growth begins to mature. Many plants root readily from softwood cuttings in a mixture of moist peat and sand. Rooting hormone applied according to label directions can speed the process. For more information, contact your local Cooperative Extension.

Lawns: How often to mow? No more than a third of the grass blade should be removed at a time, so grass should be cut when the remaining two-thirds of the grass will be greater than 3.5-4 inches tall. When grass is growing slowly in summer, mowing may not be needed more than every 2 weeks or even less. Cutting grass too short can expose the crown, dry the roots, and generally stress the lawn.

Houseplants: If any plants need repotting to larger containers, this can be done outdoors to minimize mess. To keep the root zone relatively consistent for the growing plant, choose a pot in the range of two inches in radius bigger than the old pot.