



The Grapevine

Gardening To Do List

June Gardening Tips And To Do List

Use this list to help you figure out what gardening tasks you want to accomplish this month.

June Planting

Plant basil, rosemary, thyme, sage, savory, mint, coriander, parsley, or chives. You can plant seedlings or most herbs start well by seed

It's not too late to start warm-season crops: corn, beans tomatoes, squash, peppers, egg-plant

Plant or sow summer annuals such as salvi a, nasturtiums, vinca, verbena, geraniums, phlox, marigolds, lobelia, impatiens, cosmos, sun-flowers, zinnias, and alyssum

For fragrance in the garden, use perennials such as Sweet Woodruff (*Asperula odorata*, Zones 4-8), Lilyof the-Valley (*Convallaria majalis*, Zones 2-7), and Lemon Lily (*Hemerocallis liliostracheyi*, Zones 5-9).

June Maintenance

Patch, re-seed, or plant heat-loving lawns such as hybrid Bermuda or Fescue.

Fertilize Bermuda, St. Augustine, and Zoysia lawns. For more specific information about specific Grass

Feed houseplants once a month, or apply fertilizer diluted to quarter strength every time you water

Protect sun sensitive house-plants from direct sunlight, so either move them to a cooler location, or cover your windows with a translucent curtain

Feed annual color and remove spent flowers to promote another round of flowers

Use a controlled-release fertilizer or hydrolyzed fish with sea-kelp to feed summer flowers and vegetables throughout the growing season

Feed citrus with a citrus-avocado food and water thoroughly

Feed roses after each bloom cycle, water regularly, and remove spent flowers

Water established trees and shrubs deeply and infrequently to help them get through the summer heat

Stake tall, floppy flowers: foxglove, yarrow, bachelor's buttons, carnations, and delphiniums

Cut back perennials like Shasta daisy, black-eyed Susan, cone flower, and lavender after first bloom to encourage a second round of flowers in the fall

Cut back fuchsia, geranium, and margarite to encourage branching

Cover fruit trees and vines with plastic netting to protect ripening fruit from the birds

Clean up dead brush and debris to reduce fuel volume in fire-prone areas

Most herbs need no fertilizer and little water, so water only during prolonged dry spells. Avoid mulching herbs as mulch keeps the soil too moist. If fungus develops on your herbs during wet weather, cut them back to encourage healthy new growth.

The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering, when the leaves contain the maximum essential oils. Cut herbs early in the morning on a sunny day.

Hanging baskets exposed to sun should be checked daily and watered if needed. Also, outdoor hanging containers should be sheltered from high winds.

Leftover vegetable and flower seeds may be stored in a cool, dry location for planting next year. One method is to place seed packets in a jar or plastic bag and store the containers in the re-

June 2010

**Wednesday, June 7, 2010,
6:30pm**
MGA monthly meeting—
Blueberries!

June 22-27, 2010
Master Gardener College
Virginia Tech

Friday, June 25, 2010
VMGA BI-MONTHLY BOARD
MEETING
Torgersen Hall, Room
1060, 5:00pm. Short Meeting

Saturday, June 26, 2010

VMGA ANNUAL MEETING -
Torgersen Hall Auditorium,
7:00pm. All Master Gardeners are
encouraged to attend.

Sunday, June 27, 2010

VMGA PLANT SWAP



Board Member Bios

Erica Jones

I have a picture of me aged about 8 years old following my father in the garden when we was transplanting something like broccoli, carrying some sort of bucket; being fabulous help no doubt (a bit of sarcasm here). But as far as I remember I have always liked to garden. Parents later assigned me a grassy plot to do what ever with and I planted perennials and battled grass.

This was before I knew anything about glyphosphate (and I have no idea if anyone had invented it by then). My father and mother did not agree on gardening techniques so they had separate areas

so I guess they figured I needed my own area, too.

Currently, outside, I grow small fruits, veggies, flowering shrubs, annual and perennials. Just started trying some dwarf fruit trees again (with, funny thing, fences around them). Planted some pawpaw and persimmons about 5 years ago and both of them fruited for the first time last fall. This spring I caught the pawpaw mid bloom and they have pretty neat looking blossoms. Inside is a mess but have orchids (had about 4 protested the cold this winter and look poorly) and ratty begonias and not so ratty African violets.

Things I want to do and have not (yet) a small water garden, graft tomatoes, and put in another cold frame. Maybe even get a greenhouse.

The horses steadily supply wonderful garden additives as do the chickens.



New River Valley Master Gardeners

The New River Valley Master Gardener Association is a nonprofit organization working in conjunction with the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Service to bring horticultural education and enjoyment to people in the New River Valley.

The Grapevine welcomes news, articles, questions, and comments. *The Grapevine* is published monthly and provided to all active members of the NRV MGA. Non-members may subscribe for \$15/yr. Please submit all items to the Newsletter Editor by the 25th of each month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

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Virginia Cooperative Extension –Montgomery County Office

How To Plant Your Garden

First, you Come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses....

For The Garden of Your Daily Living,

Plant Three Rows of Peas:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

No Garden is Without Turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

To Conclude Our Garden We Must Have Thyme:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water Freely With Patience and Cultivate with Love.

Treasurer's Report

In February in the "Grapevine" you saw a cash flow for the year 2009 for our regular checking account. The checking account is designated to pay for club expenses – things such as printing and mailing, POB fee, website, and special club activities (we helped fund a landscaping speaker in 2009 and planted a memorial tree). That article did not quite tell the whole story, though.

We also have another stash of funds (basically another checking account) which we use to deposit money that will be awarded for our grants program. Money that comes from our spring silent auction, and money from the Friends of the Library Garden Tour goes into this account. In 2009 we also got money from the Ruritan club which went for grants.

In previous years grants have been awarded every other year (although this prac-

tice is not cast in stone). The amounts awarded in the grants program have varied by year depending our current resources (ie, attendance of these two events). Last year the receipts from the June silent auction were considerably lower than previous years (fewer donations to some extent; but definitely fewer bidders). So for 2009 the cash flow for this (grants) account was decidedly negative – but this is not necessarily a bad thing. Barry has been a little worried about the club having some \$10,000 in the bank and suggested we award more grants, which we did. So in 2009 we awarded \$5100 in grants, and credited this account \$2111 from receipts and gifts. Currently that account stands at approximately \$6700. Hopefully the economy will improve in the future!

I think funding local gardening projects is a real luxury for the club (and as treasurer, I think the most valuable thing we do). I hope we can continue the grants program for a long time.

MG folks,

Our 2010 auction did MUCH better than 2009!! Rah!! We brought in over \$800. Some enthusiastic bidding happened on more than a few items. Some folks were seen hovering over bid sheets (with pruning shears in hand) and at least one bidder was seen sprinting to a bid sheet as the count down happened. And dinner was fabulous, as usual. And the hard working class of 2010 "graduated". Some of you looked decidedly relieved! (hey, the fun has just begun!).

Gardening to-do list (continued)

frigerator.

Divide spring and early summer flowering perennials after the blooms fade. Instead of severing the clump in half, try jiggling the roots apart with two sharp, spading forks. This takes more time, but damages fewer roots than cutting the clump apart.

Remove crusted mineral salts from clay pots by soaking pots in water for several hours. Start with hot water and renew the hot bath several times. Scrub off heavy salt build-up with steel wool and dish detergent. Sterilize pots before reuse by soaking them for ten minutes in a solution of 9 parts water to 1 part household bleach. To reduce salt build-up on clay pots, wipe them weekly with a cloth soaked in white vinegar.

June is a great time to clean out the greenhouse. Discard dead or diseased plants and old potting soil.

Good sanitation is necessary to control greenhouse pests.

Take stem cuttings of woody shrubs, trees and perennials now.

Collect seed of firepinks, poppy, wild indigo, and bleeding hearts.

Fall bloomers that get too tall, such as chrysanthemum, can be cut back by about one half now to reduce their fall height.

Spring-flowering shrubs, such as deutzia,

weigela, viburnum and forsythia, should be pruned as soon as they complete bloom.

Additional pruning may be required this month on fast-growing plants, such as juniper, privet and yew, to maintain a desirable shape during the growing season.

Mulch promotes faster growth of trees and shrubs than grass or groundcovers. In three experiments across the country, researchers have shown that a number of different trees and shrubs including dogwood, forsythia, Burford holly, Japanese black pine and cottonwood had growth reduced significantly by both groundcovers and grasses growing up to the trunk.

Weed and Pest Control

Spray roses with insecticidal soap to eliminate aphids, mites and thrips. For more about How Control chewing worms like cabbageworm, corn earworm, and petunia budworm by spraying *Bacillus thuringiensis*

To prevent slugs and similar pests from entering the drainage holes of potted plants that have been set into the ground during summer, slip the pot into the toe of an old nylon stocking. This allows water to get through, but keeps out pests.

Birds will generally not be scared away by scarecrows. Instead, try tying pieces of

glass, colored cloth or tin to loose strings so the wind can blow them and clash them together. Random motion is the key to alarming the birds away from the garden.

To protect bees that pollinate many of our crop plants, spray pesticides in the evening after bees have returned to their hives.

Identify garden pests before you attempt to control them. Read any label carefully to be sure the treatment is compatible with the plant. Make sure you apply the proper amount at the proper time. Watch for and control black spot and powdery mildew on rose foliage.

For Fun

Petunias and marigolds are more useful as cut flowers than most folks appreciate. The flowers will last for several days and are very attractive in mixed bouquets.



CHARLOTTE TAN-GRAF

Calling all Volunteers!

SHARE THE SPARE

This summer, hopefully beginning June 19th we plan to host a booth at the Blacksburg Farmers Market each Saturday from 8 until 2 pm.

Our purpose will be twofold: 1) provide an educational presence to answer questions and distribute extension information regarding gardening 2) to facilitate collection of fruits and vegetables for community food pantries. Hence the name Share the Spare.

We are encouraging the public to buy just one (or more) item as they shop and drop it off with us. A representative of AmpleHarvest.org will be picking up our collection at 2pm. If you are not

familiar with AmpleHarvest.org please check it out to appreciate the wonderfully well-coordinated effort this non-profit grassroots program is doing.

Additionally, some of the produce will be sent to Floyd to be distributed by PLENTY!, a locally-based organization that provides fresh food donations to shut-ins. We will also incorporate Plant a Row, the idea of that group is if each of us just planted one more plant or row and donated the harvest, what an impact on the local community food banks we could have.

So anyone that has an abundance of produce can drop it off at our booth. Also, the vendors at the Farmers Market may donate any excess they have at the end of the day. So what we need

is a commitment to host in two or three hour shifts from our membership. A sign is in the works to make our presence known as folks shop.

An article is forthcoming in the New River Valley Current section of the Roanoke Times making the public aware of this project. I'm sure calendars are getting full with summer activities, but if everyone could volunteer for a shift or two throughout the summer we could collectively make a huge impact for the bleak situation of many that are struggling to put healthy food on the table.

Please let Ellen know if are interested in assisting with this project and she will pass your name on to me for scheduling.

Our President's BIO—Gwen Ewing

I grew up on sand and humid, hot sun in Georgia. I'm the youngest of five. I can remember my Mom going to the farmers' market and buying bushels of beans. We snapped, and she blanched and froze them. My Dad gardened some in the hot sand—w did well with watermelons and a few tomatoes. I learned to prune from my Mom, who just got out there and whacked holly trees, magnolias, and hedges back in the fall till "it" looked right and she was satisfied.

I enjoy volunteering on our NRV MG Association executive board and attending the educational monthly meetings. I enjoy meeting new people and learning gardening techniques from each of you. Here in Virginia, I am soooo busy going to meetings and volunteering elsewhere that when you pass my house, you would

never know a master gardener lives there. My spouse, Mike, aka the Cannery Operator, and yes the Cannery is funded again for 2010!

Mike loves wild berries - blackberries, red and yellow raspberries. Mike even mows around the little devils, and gets mad—VERY, very mad when I whack them down. He doesn't understand, oops, sorry when I run them down with the lawnmower. Our berries are tasty, but enough is enough. When I cultivate a little garden space—weed and grass free—for my plants and it is taken over by the little devils and I'm told do not cut that—well you can imagine that I am fed up with trying to garden.

So please read your MG bylaws, and the volunteer chapter in the MG manual and think of taking

on a seat on the board so I can reclaim my yard next year! My two years as president ends in November and, of course, I'll sit in as "past president" and give you all the guidance I can. Please step up now, and let us know that you are interested in serving on the Association Board. If you have questions, let me know!



GOD AND ST. FRANCIS DISCUSSING LAWNS

TIMESHEETS

GOD: Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it-sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No Sir. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away. Now let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough. I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have they scheduled for us tonight?"

ST. CATHERINE: "Dumb and Dumber", Lord. It's a really stupid movie about.....

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

We would like to remind everyone that when reporting hours it is important to use the *New River Valley Master Gardener Timesheet*. This form can be downloaded onto your computer from the NRV MGA website. If you have Excel software you can fill out the form on your computer, and the software will automatically compute the totals for you. The form can then be emailed directly to us. If you do not have the software, you can print off the PDF form, fill it out, and mail it to the office. If neither of these options works for you, let me know, and I will mail you copies of the form. I have attached copies of both the Excel and PDF versions of the timesheet. They can also be downloaded by following this link:

<http://civic.bev.net/nrvmgatimesheet/timesheet.htm>

If you are still having difficulty accessing or using these forms, please contact me so that I can assist you in finding a workable solution.

Many thanks to those of you who have submitted your hours during the busy holiday season. If anyone still has a timesheet to submit, please get it to us by the end of this week at the latest. This information is **vital** to the continued support of the MG program, so please do your part by making sure that your volunteer effort is counted.

Thanks,
Ellen

Ellen Stewart
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*Submit Articles to
the Grapevine
Anytime!*



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