

Timely Tips for June Gardeners from Calloway's and Cornelius

It's getting hotter and summer time activities are getting into full swing. Take advantage of the longer days by doing gardening tasks in the morning or evening when it is more pleasant to be outside.

Hotter weather means grass will be growing faster. Keep up with the mowing so you don't have to bag the clippings. That may mean mowing every 5 or 6 days instead of every 7 to 10 days. Letting the clippings fall back into the lawn recycles nutrients but does not promote thatch. Mowing frequently at the correct height will promote a healthy, thick turf that is resistant to weeds.

As spring rains slack off and give way to drier days, apply supplemental water as needed. The rule of thumb is to water enough to wet the soil 5 to 6 inches deep. Do not water too frequently. Shallow, frequent watering promotes a shallow root system that is more susceptible to the stress of summer heat and winter cold.

The best way to conserve moisture in the landscape is by mulching. A 3 to 4 inch layer over the root zone retains moisture, keeps the soil cooler and helps prevent weed seeds from germinating under your shrubs, trees and flowers.

June is a great month for colorful summer annuals. In a sunny location try marigolds, salvia, petunias, dusty miller, and lantana just to name a few. Caladiums, coleus, impatiens and bedding begonias are a good choice for shady areas.

Summer tropical plants, though they are not freeze hardy, are perfectly at home in our Texas heat and humidity. Plant them in the ground for quick growth or in pots or tubs so you can overwinter them indoors.

In-Store Garden Series

Saturday, June 6th at 10:15 am – *Creating Gardens for Beautiful Birds*

Saturday, June 13th at 10:15 am – *Healthy Green Summer Lawns*

Saturday, June 20th at 10:15 am – *Heat-Thriving and Colorful Plants*

Saturday, June 27th at 10:15 am – *Forget the Grocery – How to Grow Delicious Tomatoes for Fall*

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