

# June Garden Chores & Tips

by Johnny and Sherrill Johnson

## Attracting Friendly Pollinators

Bees and butterflies are welcome pollinators to our garden. We all depend on beetles, wasps, flies, hummingbirds and others to pollinate the plants that provide us with much of our food, shelter and other necessities.

Exercise caution when using pesticides, as they tend to reduce the nectar and pollen sources for our gardens and will possibly poison the good insects that make growing plants in your garden possible.

Blue, violet, white and yellow flowers attract beneficial bees and butterflies that in turn volunteer to pollinate our gardens. Below are only a few of our favorite plants that attract these beneficial creatures to pollinate our gardens.

- ❖ Beebalm
- ❖ Milkweed
- ❖ Redbud
- ❖ Spiderwort
- ❖ Sunflower
- ❖ Zinnia
- ❖ Basil
- ❖ Cosmos
- ❖ Lavender
- ❖ Rosemary
- ❖ Purple Coneflower

## **June Garden Chores**

Unglazed clay pots suck up moisture through their sides, so plants in this type of containers require watering more often than in other types of containers, the smaller the pot, the quicker the soil in the pot dries out. Then frequent irrigation starts to wash the nutrients away. Try to prevent this by watering with a diluted liquid fertilizer at least once a month during the growing season.

If you don't have time to constantly deadhead spent flowers you should select some of the continuous blooming plants like impatiens, vinca, lobelia, cleome, and ageratum that don't need constant attention from the "flower spy".

Remember our bluebirds work hard to feed their babies and they appreciate any contributions from the gardeners (mealworms & cool water). Once the little ones leave the nest it is time for us to clean out their old nest to provide a home for the next bluebird family, as they prefer to start with a clean house.

It time to change and clean the hummingbird feeders every few days in the summer heat. Our hummers love the recipe of 1 cup of water to ¼ cup of sugar, boil and cool before adding to feeders.

Remember to continue to feed our feathered friends year round. If we do not provide a food and water source for our birds, they will relocate to find a reliable source such as berries and seeds.

If you want jack-o-lanterns in 2018 plant your pumpkin seeds outdoors by the end of June and they should mature just in time for the Halloween season.

## **Lawn Care**

Are you prepared for Japanese Beetles? We say never, however, if you have a frequent raccoon visitor as we do, we have found he can be very helpful in eradicating grubs that turn into Japanese Beetles while he is aerating our lawn and gardens. Just trying to look at the bright side. If you feel you must use Japanese beetle traps, place them far, far away from any plants that have become these pests' favorite meals.

Water your grass as needed to help to prevent drought, however, only up to an inch in a week. Although, if you discover you are blessed with rain, you should include the amount of rain you receive in the weekly inch measurement.

June is a good time to submit a soil sample analysis to your Cooperative Extension Service. Be sure to follow the instructions included in with the soil sample box. This is a free service if you are a Wake County resident. This will help you prepare for fall planting.

**Summer flowers, showers & rainbows are truly a gift from God.  
Remember to say, "Thank you."**