

Top Ten List – July

1. Fertilize the garden with **Bumper Crop Fertilizers**- all organic with mycorrhizae added for an extra boost. Vegetable plants and summer annuals thrive on regular fertilizer applications because they grow so much in one season.
2. Tomatoes will crack due to uneven moisture levels in the soil. Water your tomatoes in the morning instead of afternoon and evening for best results. Ensure that the soil has high organic matter, which helps combat dryness and promote root growth.
3. Check your drip system- **each emitter!** Running your drip system once a week for 6 to 8 hours or twice a week for 3 to 4 hours on established plants usually works best. If runoff is occurring, reduce the size of the emitter. Plants have roots where drippers are and if you move the water, those feeder roots die. Add one emitter to every tree in your yard 3 feet past any existing emitters every other year to insure good continual growth.
4. Apply **Osmocote Fertilizer** to your houseplants. Switch to a high phosphate orchid food to produce flowers for the next 6 months. Move your houseplants out to the east side of your house and flush with excess water to remove any buildup of minerals and salts.
5. Refresh the **Barely Bale** in your pond to keep string algae away. Test your pond water for pH, salts, and nitrogen levels. Fertilize your water lilies with an approved pond fertilizer and/or **Jobe's Organic Fertilizer Spikes**.
6. June/July is the best time to prune apple trees. You may lose some fruit, but the tree heals faster with minimal water growth (upright, unproductive cluster of weak, fast- growing branches). Use **Bird Netting** on your apricot, cherry, peach, and plum trees now so the birds don't get all the fruit. Try **Scare Tape** to deter the birds.
7. Check your cherry and pear trees for a small green slug with a black head. Look on the surface of the leaves. This leaf slug (Pearsylla) is easily controlled with an insecticidal spray on the 4th and again the 25th.
8. Fungus is in full swing on the lawn, roses, junipers, pines, spruces, spiraeas, beebalm, and summer phlox. Spray once a week for 3 weeks and try to use a different fungicide at least one time.
9. Spray **Sevin** on the elm trees to get the second hatch of elm leaf beetles. Control earwigs, boxelders, ants, and other chewing insects with **Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew**.
10. Plant shade trees now to beat the summer heat and to enjoy a colorful display this fall!