

# Timely Turf

## Tips

## July 2024

**Summer is here and wetter than normal for a change.** If you still have some space in your garden, check out the University of Minnesota Extension News at <https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden> for an article titled, What can you plant in mid July? for ideas. A variety of information is available on the site ranging from solving plant and pest problems to locating local events for July. Check it out.

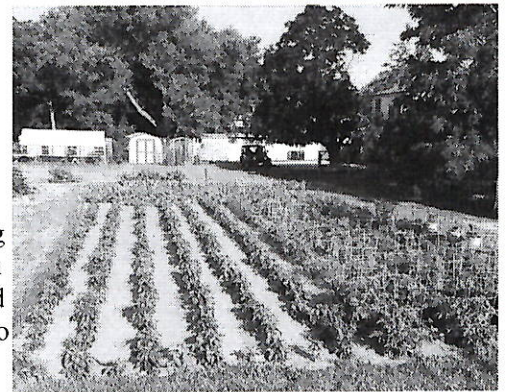
### July lawn and garden tips

While moisture has not been an issue this year so far, remember to keep the grass 3 ½ to 4 inches tall with regular mowing. Taller grass provides more shade to the grass crowns and roots, which can be important during the hot summer months.

As temperatures begin to increase, consider mulching gardens and flower beds to help prevent annual weeds and lessen moisture loss.

Side-dress tomatoes and peppers with a complete fertilizer, such as 12-6-6 Growers Special (available at the mill) when they start to flower and produce fruit.

Watch tomato plants for leaf spot diseases like early blight and Septoria. Lessen the occurrence of these diseases by watering early in the day and keeping the moisture off of the leaves as much as possible. Try to limit working among wet plants since this can increase the spread of the disease to other plants. Keep the soil from coming in contact with the foliage and developing tomatoes by staking and mulching. If you remove infected leaves, consider placing them in the trash or use some other method of destroying them. They should not go into the compost. Fungicides are available to help control the spread of the disease. Please follow all label directions for the product.



Help prevent blossom end rot in tomatoes by keeping the soil consistently moist. Wide fluctuations in soil moisture can affect the plant's ability to take up nutrients, which can lead to a greater occurrence of the disease. Use mulch to help prevent moisture loss and consider using drip irrigation as an efficient method of applying water on a needed basis. Tomatoes grown in pots during hot, dry periods could require more than one watering a day.

Garlic growers- remember that mid-July to early August is the time for harvesting. Get information on harvesting from the U of M Extension at <https://extension.umn.edu/vegetables/growing-garlic>

Plants grown in containers and hanging baskets need extra care in the hot weather of July. Check moisture levels daily, watering as needed, and consider using a water soluble fertilizer at half strength weekly to provide additional nutrients.

July can bring Japanese beetles, Rose Chafers and other pests to the garden. Small infestations can be slowed by hand-picking the pests and disposing of them by knocking them into a container of soapy water. Pick Japanese Beetles at night (after 7:00 PM) for the best results. Come see us at the mill if you have larger populations for additional suggestions for control. Another pest, the squash vine borer, is also present now. We can provide an insecticide treatment to help stop the larvae from entering the stem and prevent the possible loss of the entire plant.

Previous issues of Timely Turf Tips newsletters are available at our website: [www.hugofeedmill.com](http://www.hugofeedmill.com)

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