

Garden Club Horticultural Hints June 2020

Gardening never looked so good!

Show off your best garden specimens at a virtual flower show. Covid-19 put an end to traditional flower shows for this year, but National Garden Clubs, Inc. (of which we are a part), has come up with a wonderful work-around: a nationwide *virtual* flower show. Between June 1 and June 15, walk your garden and pick out the specimens you'd choose for entry into a flower show if it were being held locally. Then, photograph them as described on the NGC website (<http://www.gardenclub.org/resources/2020-convention/HOW-TO-PHOTOGRAPH-FOR-THE-VIRTUAL-FLOWER-SHOW.pdf>), fill out the entry form (<http://www.gardenclub.org/resources/2020-convention/NGC-VFS-Horticulture-Entry-Form.pdf>) for each specimen, and email the photos to the address on the form. All entries will be professionally judged, ribbons will be awarded, and winners will appear on the National Garden Clubs website.



Point, shoot, win! You'll need to take six photos of each entry, but just email them in.



Our chilly, wet spring is finally behind us. It's time to put out **tender annuals**. Whether you are planting geraniums and impatiens or verbena and angelonia, annuals can now safely be put in the ground or in your container gardens.

When your rhododendron (and remember azaleas are rhododendrons) are finished blooming, remove the dead flower heads. The plants will look better and not waste energy producing seeds you don't want.



When your **bearded iris** finish blooming, it's time to divide them. Dig up the entire clump of tubers and divide it into two-armed 'fans'. These will provide a good display next year. Because you have reduced the roots, also cut the foliage back by half. And discard any tubers that show signs of iris borer infestation..



Let your houseplants spend the summer on a screened porch

June is the time to prune spring blooming shrubs before they set next year's flowers. As you prune, use this clean-up process to also set the future shape of the plant. Left on their own, most shrubs want to get larger than the space you've allotted them. Your spring pruning will ensure the plant stays in the site as you envisioned when first planted. Garden will be more bountiful for starting at the right time.



A simple collar of stiff cardboard – even one cut from a can of frozen fruit juice – can protect tender plants from cutworms.

Give your houseplants a summer of rejuvenation. Now that nighttime temperatures don't go lower than 55 degrees, set houseplants out on a screened porch where they'll get more sun and fresh air. Their time in a new environment will also promote growth and blooming

Add native plants to your landscape. Native plants require less maintenance than lawns, mulch tree, shrub and perennials bed. Once established, they require less water, no fertilizers and no pesticides. An additional benefit is they attract native birds, butterflies and admirers



Native plants like this fothergilla require little maintenance once established

In the vegetable garden, **it's time to plant** tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, melon, summer and winter squash. Use cutworm collars on tomatoes, eggplant and peppers. Cutworms chew off your plants just above ground level but can be deterred by a simple collar of stiff cardboard or a bottomless can pushed one inch or more into the soil around the plant's stem.



As the days get longer and hotter, **make certain your garden doesn't dry out.** Plants under stress will not provide what you are growing them for. Pine needles, shredded bark, and leaf mold are all attractive beneficial mulches for flowers and vegetables that reduce weeds and preserve water — but no more than two inches of mulch! Too much is as bad as too little.

If you're fortunate enough to have access to seaweed, it makes a great garden mulch



Keep up your weeding. **Weeds are your plants enemies,** stealing water, nutrients and sunlight. Straw or weighted newspapers placed between rows effectively block most weeds in the vegetable garden; reducing your workload and giving you more time to enjoy the garden.

Instead of buying compost, why not make your own? Your kitchen scraps, plus non-seeded garden detritus and a generous helping of leaves can give you a season's worth of black gold!



Side dress the beds of perennials such as rhubarb and asparagus beds after the harvest is finished with composted manure or other organic fertilizers. These plants are heavy feeders and need to replenish their reserves for next year

Written and created by Betty Sanders. For more horticultural suggestions for June and throughout the year, please visit www.BettyOnGardening.com