

THE JULY LANDSCAPE GARDENER
 BY
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The "to do" list for your yard grows shorter as the summer season gets into full swing with insect control, weeding and pruning topping the list. Rains have caused a reduction in the root growth of plants due to the exclusion of needed oxygen levels in the soils around the root systems. The response of some plants has been to pull back by dropping some of their leaves. This is a temporary condition which should reverse itself once we get drier conditions and the earthworms begin to re-aerate the soils.

The rains have stimulated growth of many weed seeds. The summer crops of oxalis, nut sedge, and knotweed are growing well. If you can get them early, small weeds in planting beds can be eradicated with Round Up,--- use with care, spray only those things which you want killed. Roundup will damage or kill your desirable plantings if you hit them by mistake with overspray. Weeds, which have been allowed to grow to a larger size and those too close to desirable plants to comfortably spray, will need to be removed by hand or mechanical means. Nutsedge- a triangular shaped yellow-green weed has grown well with our current weather pattern. Broadleaf weed killers (selective) will work to suppress or kill this in lawns and can also be used in beds with directed sprays. Do not spray broadleaf weed killers (as a full coverage spray) within the drip lines of trees and shrubs as damage may result. Spot spray these areas if you have weeds but in general you will find the areas are shaded to the point where few weeds will be present. Read the label for warnings on this.

Pruning of trees and shrubs should be completed by mid July. This will allow new growth, originating from the area of the pruning cut, to harden off prior to killing temperatures of fall and winter. Limit pruning during the late summer to emergencies, realizing that these same plants will require a touch up pruning in early spring to remove the dead tips. **Do not prune azaleas and similar spring flowering plants after mid July.** Azaleas set flower buds during late summer for the following spring blooming period. Most other plants can be pruned once again by the middle of October after the chance of re-growth has passed. When pruning, cut just above a side branch that is pointing in the direction where you want the resulting growth to go. Cuts can be hidden by making them inside the bulk of the foliage of the plant and/or angling them away from the predominate direction from which the plant will be viewed.

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The 89th Annual Picnic & Bazaar

Tuesday, July 28—10:00 am—8:00 pm

Old Hospital grounds at Route 108 & Prince Philip Drive

Entertainment, Demonstrations, Information Booths, Food, Treats, Antiques, Baked Goods, Books, Flowers, Plants, Garden Produce, Jewelry, Gift Shop, Thrift Shop and more.

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