

# Summer Gardening Checklist

By Jake R Brady

- Watering
  - Set up a watering system, such as drip irrigation or soaker hoses.
  - Water your plants early in the morning to give them a head start.
  - Make a frequent check of flowers and vegetables for their watering needs.
  - Add a light layer of mulch around young plants to help their roots retain water.
- Plants
  - Replace dead annuals to ensure colorful blooms all summer long.
  - Harvest vegetable gardens and fruit orchards gardens.
  - Control weeds with mulch, weed mesh fabrics, or by using weed killer chemicals.
  - Rejuvenate annual and perennial flowers by deadheading.
  - Make sure you check your plants regularly for signs of insect infestation.
  - Apply a second, midsummer dose of fertilizer to young shrubs and trees.
  - Keep shrubs pruned and plants pinched back to promote dense, bushy growth.
  - Place a sheet of fine netting or wire mesh over strawberries, blueberries, and other fruit crops as soon as they begin to develop fruit.
  - Check your yard for poisonous plants and remove promptly.
- Lawn
  - Keep grass mowed to a recommended height of 3 inches.
  - Water deeply your lawn once a week for an hour at a shot.
  - Raise the cutting height on your mower to keep grass longer.