



GARDENING HINTS FROM THE PRO

Sherri Harrah from Plants for All Seasons on SH 249

July To-Do List

In the Lawn

- Watch for chinch bugs to start working. They are a little later than normal this year with all the rain. Chinch bugs thrive in dry areas and work their way through your lawn. If you know your sprinklers are getting good coverage and there are growing brown areas, start looking for chinch bugs. You must treat ASAP to prevent them from killing your lawn. I recommend a .2% granular bifenthrin and water it in deep. There are a lot of insecticides that claim to kill chinch bugs, but in my experience, the bifenthrin works the fastest and lasts the longest. If you're not sure if you have chinch bugs, bring in pictures of the lawn, and cut out a 10"x10" section of grass and soil in an area that is going from good to bad so we can see the transition and check for live bugs.
- Feed with MicroLife Hybrid to maintain a lush healthy lawn without burning.
- Make sure to check sprinklers to make sure your coverage is good and adjust the timer based on rainfall. If we continue to stay wet, turn off the sprinklers until the grass looks like it needs it. When you do water, water deep, and infrequently. This will create deeper root systems.

In the Flowerbeds

- It's not too late to add flowers to your landscape. Just remember not to rely on your sprinklers to do the watering the first 2 weeks or so. Do some hose watering if they start to show any signs of wilt. Once their little root systems have branched out into the bed soil, you can back off the hose water and leave it to the sprinkler system.
- Keep everything well fed with Nelsons Colorstar every 4-6 weeks to keep everything blooming and happy!
- Make sure to add leafmold compost when planting to help retain moisture, and then add an inch of native hardwood mulch to keep your soil from drying out and keep weeds to a minimum.

In the Veggie Garden

- It's time to plant your Fall Tomatoes!!! Rip out your tired Spring tomatoes and replace with new plants ASAP! Sometimes you can get tomatoes through Christmas if you get them planted in time. Call the nursery to see if shipments have arrived 281-376-1646. We bring them in as soon as the growers have them ready, usually the 2nd to 3rd week in July.
- Make sure to feed your veggies regularly. My favorite is MicroLife Ultimate 8-4-6.

- You can start these seeds directly in the garden now:
 - Burpless Cucumber
 - Okra
 - Winter Squash like butternut
 - Tomatillo
 - Pumpkin
- Prepare the unplanted areas of your garden for all your Fall crops by adding Revitalizer Compost and a layer of native mulch.

Don't forget that we brew fresh compost tea available every Saturday and Sunday. Visit with Cody and Matt at the store for more info on the benefits and uses of aerated Compost Tea!

Get Your **Green** On!

Sherri Harrah

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