

JUNE GARDEN SCHEDULE FOR NEW YORK CITY

SUNDIALS. June 15th is the day to set your sundial clock. The shadow should fall on 12 noon exactly.

BIRDBATH. Birds will appreciate fresh water.

CULTIVATION. Consistent cultivation of the soil can prevent pest and disease trouble. Extreme care, however, should be exercised so as not to injure plant roots.

SEEDS. This month is the proper deadline for sowing summer-flowering plants: Sunflower, Marigold, Cosmos, Zinnia, Aster, Calendula, Snapdragon, Salvia, Verbena, Ageratum, etc.

SEEDLINGS. Should be thinned and staked when very small and before the roots interlock. Remember that good air circulation helps prevent fungus and disease. Stake Dahlias to one stalk: stake Peonies. Fertilize when first buds appear. Cloches may be necessary as protection against strong winds.

DISBUDDING & DEADHEADING. Removal of annual flower blossoms as they fade, or on a weekly to bi-weekly basis, can help continue blooms and spur flower production. All plants grow to produce seed. Full-form, bigger branching plants, such as Cosmos, Nicotiana, Marigolds will shoot to greater width and height if pinched back now, resulting in more blooms throughout the season.

ROSES. Watch roses for aphids and fungus, as well as blackspot and suckers from root stock. Cultivate Rose bed area.

IRIS/GLADIOLA. Dutch Iris beds should be examined closely for soft, slimy leaves, an indication of Iris borer. Extending the growing season on the Iris bed can be accomplished if you are ordering fibrous-rooted, bearded Siberian (2-5') Iris to plant in July. An extra feeding at budding time can reward you with better blooms.

Gladiolas like sun and a well-drained soil cultivated to a depth of at least 18 inches. Try planting them in rows in your vegetable garden or between Peonies. Successive plantings every 10 days, 12 inches apart, to be filled in to a distance of 6 inches, will insure a longer blooming season. Staking should be done when necessary.

PERENNIALS. To encourage a second bloom of Delphiniums and Achillea, they should be cut back after bloom, watered and well fertilized. If you have Liatris (Blazing Star), Coreopsis, Phlox, Primrose or other acid loving perennials, now is a good time to apply an acid mulch, such as 1/2 peat moss and 1/2 cow manure.

TREES AND SHRUBS. Spring-flowering shrubs should have old, dead or leggy wood cut to the ground and/or trunk. These shrubs bloom next year on this year's growth. Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Lilacs and Andromedas should have dead flowers and seedpods carefully removed to make room for next years blooms. All newly planted materials should be faithfully soaked with water as necessary.

SOIL CONDITIONING. Clay soils, familiar to vacant-lot gardeners, should be prepared with plenty of organic matter and not limed. Test the soil to determine its pH - if necessary, add some bonemeal to stimulate root development. Plant some deep-rooted plants such as Sunflower. Allow some weed growth as their roots are often deep divers and can penetrate some compacted rubble soils. If you still are not ready to proceed with your garden, a cover crop like Clover, Soybeans, Barley or Rye might be considered.

MULCHING. Practice good mulching techniques: mulching with leaves and/or grass clippings. Wood-chips may also be used to keep tree and shrub pits free of weeds as well as keeping these areas attractive.

WEEDING. This is the time of the year when attention must go to keeping the weeds at bay. Ignoring weeds when they are small means a much bigger job later on. Try to get an expert to visit your garden to identify the most obnoxious weeds. Tagging them or digging samples up and potting certain weeds will give you a living reference library for the rest of the summer.

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THE CITY LOT

LAWNS. Thatching and reseeding should already be done. This is the time to mow and water. After mowing, clippings should be raked and either used as mulch or put into the compost heap.

BULBS. You may remove the stalk and blooms of your spent bulbs. However, do not cut off the leaves as they are producing food for next year's blooms. If unsightly, they can be tied. The correct time to remove bulb leaves is in mid-summer.