

July Garden Tips

JULY is the month in which either you break the garden or the garden breaks you. To combat heat and dryness of the soil, cultivate constantly. Bonemeal will help the plants that are ready to bloom.

If the garden is to be kept neat, all old flowers and dead leaves must be picked off frequently. Tie any seeds that you want to save with a bright string or ribbon.

All tall, late blooming plants, such as boltonia, wormwood (*Artemisia*), platycodons and cosmos, must be staked. If dahlias were not staked when planted, do it now. All plants which bloom in the fall should be fed well.

If you did not divide or transplant your iris immediately after blooming, do so now. Japanese iris must have plenty of water during the blooming season. Give the Japanese iris liquid manure every week or two.

Cut down the delphinium after blooming if you desire a second bloom in autumn. Fertilize with bonemeal.

Prune rambler roses and all early flowering shrubs, such as lilacs, which are thru blooming.

Now is the time to sow the seeds of biennials and perennials for next year. Put these in a coldframe, in soil made of leaf mold, garden loam, well-rotted manure and sand. Plant a little deeper than in the spring and press seeds down firmly. If the coldframe is not in a half-shady spot, cover with laths for a few days. The earlier in the month they are planted, the better.

Madonna lilies may be moved or newly planted in late July or in August.

Locate places where evergreens are needed. Order the trees and prepare the soil for the planting in August.

Plant Oriental poppies. To get true colors, cut roots into pieces two inches long and plant two inches deep; mark with stakes and keep watered.

Helleborus niger or Christmas rose is not well enough known. It blooms in December, January and February, even in snow. It may be planted now or in early spring. If you have a few plants, divide them. The roots pull apart in natural divisions, each with a crown and roots. Plant in half-shade, under a deciduous tree (mine are under a hickory), so they have sun in winter and shade in summer. The soil should be a mixture of loam, sand and leaf mold. If you want longer stems on the flowers, cover with leaves, so that they will have to reach up to get the light.

Look over the whole garden and write down all changes in your notebook. Put stakes in the bare spots in the garden, distinctly marked with what you want to plant there, either in late fall or early spring.—Subscriber.



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