

July

What to Plant . . . Look for heat resistant varieties of bedding plants and herbs.

Continue to plant and transplant trees, palms and shrubs to take advantage of summer rains. Get **tomato** and **pepper** seeds planted in pots to have transplants ready for September planting. Most vegetables grow here from September through March.

What's Blooming . . .

What to Prune . . . Continue to clip off faded flowers of marigold, salvia, canna, verbena, zinnia and buddleia to encourage new flower growth. Prune **poinsettia** now to encourage branching and lush growth.

What to Fertilize . . . Continue to fertilize bedding plants every four weeks. Palms have high requirements of micronutrients such as manganese, magnesium and iron and heavy rains may leach these nutrients out of the soil. Fertilize **palms** this month if you did not do so in June.

What to Watch For . . . Scout for turf damage each week. **Chinch bugs** cause the grass to turn from green to yellow-green and then a straw color. This usually occurs in the hottest, driest sections of the lawn. There are many chinch bug killing products available. Grubs and mole crickets eat the grass roots. Pour soapy water on damaged turf and look for their presence. They will move to the top. Weather conditions are just right this time of year for **brown patch disease**, a fungus that attacks many lawn grasses. Brown patch damage first appears as circular areas of brown and dead grass surrounded by a narrow, dark ring. Using a slow release nitrogen fertilizer can help prevent this disease.

July Journal:

- Check **mulch** in flowerbeds to make sure it is at least three inches deep to keep soil cool so roots can grow their best. Pull mulch away from tree and shrub trunks.
- **Citrus trees** may be losing some of their older leaves this time of year. Citrus leaves live only about one year and now are ready to fall off.
- To keep **turf grass** healthy, keep lawn mower blades sharp and never “scalp” the lawn.

