

Gardener's Corner

July 2024

Even though summer just began, we have already hit record temperatures. The heat has been beastly until the last few days. Who wants to pull weeds on these hot, hot days? With temperatures in the 100°F+, it's out of the question for most of us. The spring rains, however, did have an impact on the drought situation throughout the state, as this article from the **University of Missouri Extension (MU Ext.)** notes: <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/rains-bring-drought-relief-to-missouri>

An important topic for us all is how we and our gardens can survive the heat. Three articles may help you and your gardens keep safe as we get into the hottest days of summer. The first focuses on us. *Working in hot conditions*, is a publication from the **MU Ext.** You can find it here: <https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/g853>. The next two articles focus on the garden: *How to keep your garden thriving in hot weather* is from the Farmer's Almanac; <https://www.farmersalmanac.com/protect-garden-heatwave>. Additional advice from the **Growing in the Garden** website entitled, *Surviving a heatwave: 10 tips for gardening in high heat* can be found here: <https://growinginthegarden.com/surviving-a-heatwave-gardening-in-high-heat/>

For July, tips and tasks from the **Missouri Botanical Garden** again focus on powdery mildew, which is still a problem for lilacs, phlox, peonies and others. They note that if grown in full sun, the shrubs are less prone to the disease. Remember that although this condition is unsightly, it usually isn't harmful to the plant. If you wish to treat plants, however, phlox and peonies can be sprayed with preventative fungicides prior to rain.

Fertilizing annuals in planters regularly will help to keep these flowers in bloom. Flowers, perennials and annuals, should be deadheaded to encourage continuous blooming.

If you are plagued with Japanese beetles, two articles may provide some help. The first from the **University of Minnesota Extension**, entitled *Japanese beetles in yards and gardens*, gives extensive information on the beetle. You can find it here: <https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-insects/japanese-beetles>. From the **MU Ext.** Pest Monitoring Network there is a *Japanese beetle alert*, Missouri specific information: <https://ipm.missouri.edu/pestMonitoring/jb/>

Webinars:

July 11, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Seed St. Louis** will present a webinar through the **St. Louis County Library** entitled, *Fall Gardening*. You can register here: <https://slcl.events.mylibrary.digital/event?id=98625>

July 23, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. *Companion planting: Bountiful and beautiful together* will be presented by the **University of Illinois Extension**. Register at this site: <https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/four-seasons-gardening-webinar-companion-planting-bountiful-and-beautiful-together-july-23> Companion planting: Bountiful and beautiful together. July 23. University of Illinois Extension. 1:30-2:30

Finally, the **National Garden Bureau** has a series of free, informative webinars about gardening. You can view it here: <https://ngb.org/great-garden-webinars/>

