

SUMMER CARE TIPS



WATERING

As the summer warms up, your garden is going to need more water. The best time to water is early in the morning before the ground starts to heat up. If your garden isn't getting enough water, you will start seeing plants sag. If your plants are hanging their leaves down instead of holding them up to the sun, you know they need more water. Avoid watering late in the evening as having damp mulch can grow mushrooms overnight.

WEEDING

It is very important to make sure you are pulling out weeds before they go to seed. Any weed that is allowed to bloom and go to seed will spread across your garden and begin competing with your perennials for resources. Be sure to pull weeds out by the root to prevent them from regrowing. Vines like bindweed and English ivy can regrow from even a small part of their root system.



Visit the Virtual Service Center:
www.allianceforthebay.org/maintenance

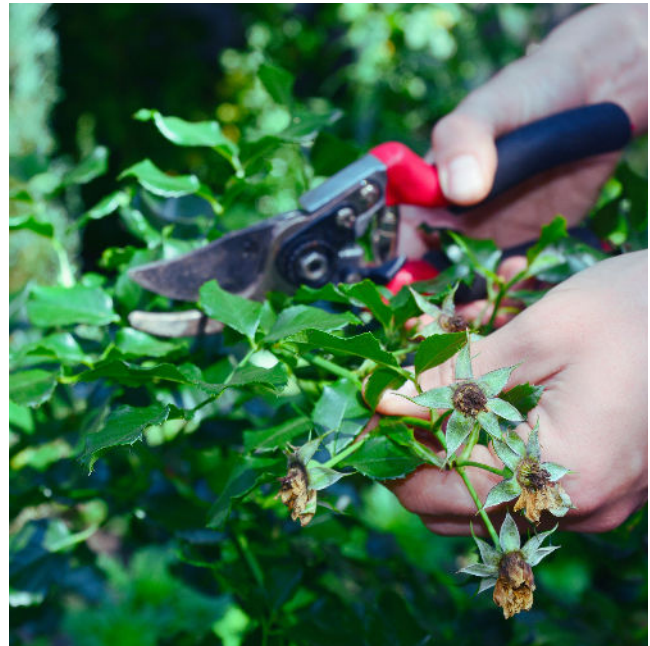
DEADHEADING

Deadheading is the common practice of removing old flowers to encourage new flower growth. This is typically done to annuals, however, in a perennial garden, it can actually be harmful. If you remove flowers before they dry out, you're preventing the seeds from spreading and new plants from growing. Allowing these seeds to fall naturally will help your garden to fill out. These seeds also serve as an important food source for birds.



MONITORING

Summer is a good time to take a critical look at how the garden is growing and treating stormwater. If you have a rain garden, track how long it takes the garden to empty after a rain. It should empty within 48 hours. You can also check to make sure excess water is overflowing where you want it to and not emptying onto any impervious surfaces. If you have a BayScape, you'll want to keep an eye out for erosion, especially after large rain events.



GARDEN EDGES

Where gardens and lawns meet, you may find grass creeping into the garden. Left unchecked, you can easily lose the distinction between garden and lawn. Use a spade to recut any receding borders. Avoid using timbers or plastic/metal garden edging as a border for your garden. This can prevent water running across the surface of your lawn from entering your garden.

