

JUNE GARDEN 'TO DO' LIST

By Claudette Sims, Halton Master Gardener

- Perennials** – Stake and support tall plants (e.g., peonies, sunflowers, delphiniums). You can give certain perennials a "Chelsea chop" (e.g., ironweed, asters, goldenrods, monarda, phlox) to keep them shorter and sturdier and encourage more stems and blooms.
- Veggies & Annuals** – Stake or cage vegetables like **tomatoes** and beans as needed. Avoid blossom end rot by watering tomatoes regularly. Mound **potatoes** to maximize production and protect tubers from sun exposure. Direct sow warm season veggies such as **corn**, **beans**, **cukes** and **squash**, and flowering annuals such as **nasturtiums**, **marigolds** and **cosmos**. Grow **herbs** near the kitchen for easy access. Plant invasive **mints** and **oregano** in containers to contain spread.
- Weeds & Invasives** – Do weekly rounds of your garden to remove weeds and invasive plants. Use this ID guide for weedy lawn and garden plants. Note that some native plants are included in many "weed" guides. Use a line trimmer to keep weeds under control on bricked areas or driveways—they are also handy for trimming the edge of a garden bed!



Reuse an old garden umbrella for climbing vines or vegetables! Image: [Riana Noyes FB](#)

“ Read this great article about Halton MG Margaret Larson who loves monarchs, then plant milkweed to really help them! ”



- Spring bulbs** – Pinch off tops to prevent spent flowers from going to seed. When leaves turn yellow they can be removed and bulbs can also be lifted, divided and replanted if too crowded. Divide **fall crocus** bulbs in June or July once the leaves have died down.
- Pests** – Whenever possible, resist the urge to reach for a pesticide so that predatory insects have a chance to feed on insect pests.
 - Japanese beetles** appear in June. Hand pick, knock into a bucket of soapy water, or use a hand vacuum to suck them up! **Aphids** can be squished or knocked off plants using a strong spray from your garden hose. Make this totally non-toxic mosquito trap that will attract female mosquitoes and reduce overall numbers. Reduce **earwig** numbers with traps to leave in the garden where earwigs are present, e.g., paper rolled up and secured with masking tape. Each day, tap the paper straw against a bucket of soapy water to empty the trap, then return to the garden. Replace the traps and repeat.
 - Squash bug** control—all you need is duct tape and this cool video! Inspect boxwood pests like **Box Tree Moth** (BTM) on a weekly basis. Watch this BTM training video to learn more.
- Lawn** – Follow good cultural practices to have a healthy lawn. Mow high, water less frequently but deeply, and feed with compost.
- Water** newly planted trees and plants regularly; water lawn and existing trees less frequently but deeply. Potted plants will need more frequent watering. Use soaker hoses for water wise  gardening.