

TO DO LIST JUNE 2016

Peninsula Garden Club

No measurable rain in weeks.....could be another long dry summer. I find this rather daunting and as I write this I am hoping the clouds may give us a gift of water. By now most of us have planted up containers and baskets with annuals and they need regular watering to establish their root system. Try not to let them dry out until the plants have grown a bit. The same with all the newly planted roses, shrubs and perennials. This is a time to 'baby' new plantings.

Some of these tasks may have been done already as we are well ahead of what used to be normal. However, if you have not undertaken these tasks, do so now.

- mow the lawn regularly - or have someone come do it for you,. Just make sure it is cut on a regular basis
 - remove suckers from shrubs and trees such as Lilac/Cherry/Crab Apple and shrub Roses. Cut flush with trunk or below ground . Take back as far as you are able
 - deadhead Lilac - cut just below spent flower. If you wish to cut back tree for shape or size make your stem cut just above two opposite nodesnot the alternate . Lilac have both.
 - deadhead Rhodos . Again remove just the faded flowers, taking care not to damage the underlying growth buds. You can cut/prune the shrub for size and shape now as well. If you choose and perhaps some Rhodo /Azeala food.
 - clean up foliage from tulips and daffs once it has yellowed
 - if you have congested clumps of bearded Iris, now is the time to lift, divide and replant a healthy rhizome with foliage trimmed to a good fan shape. Extra plants can be shared with friends.
 - cut back Weigelia after flowering
 - remove unwanted flowers from Senscio
 - deadhead Roses regularly. Cut to just above a leaf with 5 leaflets . remove any leaves showing signs of blackspot. If you choose, you can give your roses more "food" at this time. Watch for pests
 - plant out tomatoes. Pinch out tops of broad beans
 - mulching between rows of veggies will conserve water
 - thin out seeded veggies to give room to grow
 - stop cutting asparagus growth mid-June to allow top growth to feed roots. Also keep area clear of weeds
 - stake or tie plants that may need support
 - quick growing hedges can be given their first clipping
 - Weed and Water...especially container plants which can dry out very quickly in the longer warmer
 - 'How does my garden grow?' Now is a great time to wander around your garden and take note of how plants are growing. What do you like/don't like? Check the health of your plants. Make plans for any changes you may want to do.
- *sit back, relax. Enjoy !