



GARDENING TIPS FROM BLUE WILLOW AND LANDSCAPE ONTARIO

JULY-AUGUST

Gardening in the Summer

1. Pinch back and deadhead perennials regularly. It often encourages a second and even a third bloom, with such perennials as delphiniums and salvia.
2. Bearded Irises can be divided and replanted in July if they bloomed less in June.
3. Pinching back hardy chrysanthemums will encourage branching for shorter, fuller plants with more blossoms in the fall.
4. Apply 2.5 - 3.5 cm of water to your lawn if it doesn't rain. Deep watering twice a week is preferable to frequent shallow watering.
5. Watch carefully for dying patches of turf that could be caused by white grubs feeding on grass roots. Apply Wilson Grub Out™
6. Continue planting trees, shrubs, evergreens, vines, roses, and perennials throughout the summer. Keep plants well watered and fertilize with Parkwood™ Transplanter 5-15-5.
7. If necessary, prune evergreens, maples, honey locust, birch, linden, and magnolia during the summer months.
8. If some of your roses are prone to black spot or powdery mildew, spray them with Floritect before the disease(s) usually appears. Stop fertilizing roses after August 15.
9. Remove flowers on Basil to encourage even more leaf growth.
10. Protect ripening fruit from birds by covering with black netting.
11. Keep your birdbath clean and filled with water. Change your water weekly.
12. To ensure clear water in a fountain, add the appropriate amount of water clarifier. Maintain the water level so it doesn't fall below the intake of the submersible pump, resulting in motor burn-out.
13. If you're having trouble with algae turning your water garden green, add more plants to absorb the nitrates and salt causing the algae.
14. Change the sugar water in your hummingbird feeder especially when it's hot.
15. Take cuttings when propagating new plants during the summer when plant tissue is still soft. Dip them in the appropriate rooting hormone for soft, medium and hardwood.
16. For a fresh fall crop of radish, spinach, and lettuce, sow seeds in August.
17. Ensure a constant supply of moisture to cedars throughout July and August.
18. Rhododendrons also require constant moisture especially in August before they set flower buds in September.



Slug and Snail Patrol



Damp, shady areas of the garden are the ideal home for slugs and snails. The good news is that there are three natural products to combat slugs and snails that won't harm the birds, animals or humans. Two of these: Green Earth™ Dio Bug and Slug killer and Chemfree Insectgone Crawling Insect Killer. Both contain a bait to attract the insect or slug and diatomaceous earth. Under a microscope, these dust like particles are razor sharp. Any crawling insect that

passes over the dust is essentially shredded. As violent as it may sound, it's not a poison, it has no residual effect in the soil, and it keeps the foliage from being attacked. Simply dust over the soil under and around the plants they prefer. Safer's Slug and Snail Bait contains ferric phosphate, a compound commonly found in soil, and a specifically formulated bait. When ingested, slugs and snails immediately stop feeding and die within 3-6 days. Apply evenly over moist soil and reapply as required. Uneaten bait will degrade and become part of the soil.

As soon as you see a slime trail anywhere near your prize plants, spread one of these products not only to protect foliage but also to minimize a population explosion of these pests.

Butterfly Gardening

Butterfly gardens can be grown throughout Canada. There is a wide variety of both butterfly attracting (nectar) plants and host plants covering climate zones throughout the country.

Butterfly gardens can range in size from a few containers placed in a sunny spot to several acres. Nectar-producing plants will attract butterflies to your garden.

In order to support a full butterfly lifecycle, host plants (for laying eggs and use as a caterpillar food source) must also be present.



Throughout the country, the general requirements for butterfly gardening are the same: full sun, nectar source plants, larval host plants, a pesticide-free environment, and knowledge of the local butterfly fauna.

Many butterfly-attracting plants are natives and require little attention, as they are naturally adapted to the region in which they live.

Butterfly gardens are best planted in the spring with younger plants or in the fall with mature plants that will become dormant quickly and re-emerge in the spring. It is best not to plant in the heat of summer or the cold of winter.

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One of the most common mistakes in butterfly gardening is planting only one nectar source. Adult butterflies have a very short lifespan. Planting a variety of nectar sources will encourage more butterflies to visit the garden.

Planting an adequate supply of host plants gives butterflies a place to lay their eggs, which will successfully hatch and result in butterflies that will continue to visit the garden. Butterflies typically lay their eggs in late spring and hatch 3-6 days after they are laid. It takes 3-4 weeks for a caterpillar to pupate and 9-14 days to emerge as an adult.

Butterfly Attracting Plants

| Common Name | Scientific Name |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Azalea | Rhododendron spp. |
| Black-Eyed Susan | Rudbeckia hirta |
| Butterfly Bush | Buddleja davidii |
| Butterfly Weed | Asclepias tuberosa |
| Egyptian Star Flower | Pentas lanceolata |
| Ironweed | Veronia baldwinii |
| Joe-Pye Weed | Eupatorium purpureum |
| Lantana | Lantana camara |
| French Marigold | Tagetes patula |
| New England Aster | Aster novae-angliae |
| Purple Coneflower | Echinacea purpurea |
| Swamp Milkweed | Asclepias incarnata |
| Blazing Star | Liatris spp. |
| Vervain | Verbena spp. |
| Zinnia | Zinnia elegans |

A good resource for learning more about butterfly gardening is The Blue Willow Butterfly Conservatory. Now is a good time to visit us and take a guided tour.

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