

## June Gardening Calendar

05-20-2019

June is the big tomato harvest month. By the end of the month we generally pull the spring plants so we can replace them with the fall plants in July. So far everything looks promising for a large yield from our tomato plants. Control leaf-footed bugs and other tomato pests with Sevin or malathion. Leaf-footed bugs and other stink bugs are difficult to control. In my experience Sevin or malathion work best. Wholesalers are not making Sevin available but if you or your nursery supplier have some on hand, it can be used.

It is also a prime time for pepper production and the beginning of okra harvest.

Once okra begins producing pods there is lots of okra available. If the pods are not harvested every two days, they will quickly become too tough for use. Keep removing the old pods to encourage production of new ones even if you haven't room on your menu for more okra for a few days. If you have fire ants managing aphids and/or eating the flower buds on your okra, there are several control options. To reduce fire ant interference during pod harvest, they can be sprayed off the plants with a hose at the beginning of the process. For longer term control seek out one of the fire ant controls with Spinosad for an active ingredient that is labeled for use in the vegetable garden. Baits like Amdro can be used in the area surrounding the garden. Follow the label directions of all insecticides including both manufactured and organic.

In the flower garden the snapdragons have declined due to the fungal rust and you have probably replaced them with zinnias. The Dreamland selection zinnia available at most nurseries makes a good cut flower. Profusion does not produce as large or as colorful a bloom but is more drought tolerant and mildew resistant. If you want a taller zinnia with a longer stem for cut flowers, try California Giants, Cactus, or other heirloom selections by seed. Zinnias are among the favorite flowers used as a nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds. A patch of annual sunflowers is also attractive to butterflies and seed-eating birds. For a deer-proof summer annual, use vinca in full sun. Moss roses and purslane work well in containers. The "New Look" celosia has been recognized as a Texas Super Star. Reportedly it will produce its red plume on maroon foliage even if it is a hot summer.

In the shade replace cyclamen and primula with semperfloren begonias, "Whopper begonias, pentas, coleus, or caladium.

If you applied a pre-emergent herbicide for sand bur control on or before March 1, it is time for the second application in mid-June.

The purple martins will be hatching and raising their young in June. By mid-July they will have organized for their flights south to the Amazon. When it is clear that they have moved out of your birdhouses lower the houses, so the English sparrows won't continue to raise nestlings. The American goldfinches head back North in late May and early June, but the lesser goldfinches will decorate your landscape especially if you offer a thistle feeder and/or grow sunflowers and zinnias.