

What to do in.... June

Flowers - Plant out tender summer-bedding plants, such as begonias, once all risk of frost has passed. Push canes into pots of tall-growing lilies and tie their stems to it for support. Lift and divide clumps of primulas. Trim leaves and faded flowers from oriental poppies to encourage new growth. Use secateurs to remove suckers growing from the stems of standard roses. Tie tall border plants like delphiniums to their supports. Cut back dead and dying foliage on spring bulbs. Train clematis shoots to their supports. Finish dividing hardy primulas. Deadhead lupins as soon as the flowers have faded. Propagate wisteria, clematis, honeysuckle and ornamental vines by layering their shoots into the soil. Give hanging baskets and patio pots a weekly liquid feed. Remove flower heads from flag irises as petals fade. Prune back flowered stems on lilac, camellias, rhododendrons, philadelphus, exochorda, deutzia and weigela. Propagate dianthus by taking cuttings of non-flowering shoots. Sow sweet Williams, wallflowers, stocks and forget-me-nots now

Allotment - Look out for woolly aphid on fruit trees, and spray any with soapy water. Thin out seedlings from earlier sowings to their final spacings. Use netting to protect developing and ripening fruits from birds. Tie in new shoots on blackberries, raspberries, loganberries and other cane fruits. Use soapy sprays at the first signs of greenfly and blackfly. Thin out congested fruits on apples and plums - the remaining fruits will grow far larger if competition is reduced. Hang old CDs among crops and from fruit trees to scare away birds. Give extra water to ripening soft fruits such as raspberries, gooseberries, strawberries and currants. Harvest early potatoes, carrots and salad crops. Prune the sideshoots of gooseberry bushes back to just five leaves. Cut out congested raspberry canes at soil level, or those popping up in paths. Feed all crops with a liquid fertiliser. Herbs to sow now include coriander, parsley and basil. Veg to sow now includes lettuce and salad leaves, rocket, carrots, beetroot, cauliflower, spinach, chicory, peas, swede and turnips.

Greenhouse & Conservatory - Water crops in grow bags and pots daily, adding a liquid feed once a week. Pinch out developing sideshoots on tomato stems. Train cucumbers and tomatoes to supports. Increase shading and ventilation to keep temperatures down on hot days. Take cuttings from hydrangeas, fuchsias, pelargoniums, osteospermums, marguerites, coleus and verbena. Sow seeds of Christmas cherry (solanum) to grow as winter pot plants. Damp down the floor every morning and open vents. Water tomatoes regularly to prevent fruits splitting, Sow Primulas for flowering pot plants next spring. Repot houseplants that have become pot bound. Thin out bunches of grapes with pointed scissors. Take cuttings using non-flowering shoots on fuchsias, pelargoniums and marguerites

General - Give wooden furniture a facelift, sanding smooth then applying teak wood oil. Cut back climbing plants that are hanging down from arches and pergolas. Empty, mix and refill compost bins to improve the composting process. Hoe the soil surface between flowers and crops to remove weed seedlings. Gradually lower the cutting height of your mower as grass growth increases. Apply a combined weed, feed and mosskiller to your lawn if you

think it needs it. Top up water levels in pools and remove water weeds with a net. Continue watering anything newly planted until it has established. Cut verges along the roadside to prevent plants obscuring the view of motorists. Lightly trim new growth on box hedging. Pick dead flower heads off rhododendrons and azaleas. Trim hedges like privet and *Lonicera nitida*. Fill gaps in borders with pots of tall bulbs, like lilies, to add colour. Clean paths and paving with a pressure washer, then water with a solution to deter moss and algae

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