

Hi Everyone,

Do you think that we have had enough rain this May? Would be nice if we could space it out over the summer. This rain is very good for the newly planted flowers, etc., but hard on us who love to be in the garden doing our thing. I do believe that there will be a lot of weeding to be done.

A new house is being built next to us and I am going to put sulphur around the perimeter of the house to deter snakes from moving in. This is a very good idea - especially in the fall when our slithery friends are looking for a place to hibernate. Sulphur can be purchased at any feed store or probably Lowes This is the same sulphur that you would use if your soil test says you need to amend your soil with sulphur.

**Tips for June:**

**Prune:**

- Azaleas and rhodis now that they have bloomed.
- Prune-out dead branches in shrubs and trees and prune back to a node. Be sure to prune on an angle.
- Reshape plants if they have overgrown their space.
- Do Not cut back bulb foliage - it is good food for next season.

**Fertilize:**

- Use rose food for roses.
- Fertilize azaleas and rhodis.
- Use 10-10-10 if you didn't fertilize around Memorial Day.

**Lawns:**

- Maintain mowing height of fescue and bluegrass @ 2 1/2" to 3".
- Be on the look-out for grubs - treat accordingly.

*The Master Gardener Helpline has had numerous calls about moles and voles. The reason so many people have these critters on their property is because they haven't treated for grubs, which eat the roots of your grass. If you don't have grass and still see the tunnels then do a little tap dance on their tunnel and they should go away. It is now legal to treat these tunnels and I recommend to use mole-knots or the like. Be careful what you put down if you have animals.*

**Flowers:**

- Remember to dead head.
- Division of some flowers can be done now.
- Check for tree galls on azaleas and camellias. If found - dispose of them in the garbage.
- Keep pinching back mums.

Watch for Japanese beetles on your roses. If you find them treat with Neem Oil or shake the beetles into a bucket of water.

An interesting plant for our zone and a moist area is 'Hidden Ginger' or *Curcuma aurantiaca*, which grows 1 to 2 inches tall in a clump; dapples or part shade; consistently moist well-drained soil and blooms before leaves appear. This plant grows by rhizomes producing large flowers that last for several months.

Also an interesting tree is the 'Ikandi' Japanese maple; 10' tall and 4 to 5' wide in 10 years. Requires partial shade with moist well-drained soil. The tree is deciduous with bright pink leaves in spring turning green and white in summer. A real dazzler!

Any questions contact me at: 910-255-0010 or EquineBRC@aol.com

Enjoy! Barb