



## Top 10 Things to Do in July

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### MOSQUITOS & WASPS

Mosquitoes are a common pest this time of year, so try to ensure your yard is free of any standing water. If you have a still pond, pop in a Mosquito Dunk puck to help prevent future swarms. For the inevitable visit though, try Aromatica's 'Mosquito Relief'; it has a beautiful texture and fragrance... and it works!

Wasps have definitely become more aggressive over the last few years, so take regular tours of your home, shed, nooks and crannies to see where they're building. We have a spray foam in stock that is very effective and can be applied from some distance for safety. You can look for nests during the day, but try to only spray at dusk or dawn when they are 'dozy'.

Summer has arrived! With the sun finally making an appearance our gardens will be making up for lost time. Here's how we can help:

1. Feed your vegetables! A lot of veggies are tired looking from the rain, but they're actively growing now too so then need a boost all the more. Try 10-15-19.

2. Replant vegetables as you harvest them. There is still time to plant starter veggies too if you've held off putting your garden in all together!

3. Plant heat loving perennials now for late summer and fall colour, year after year. Phlox, echinacea, rudbeckia, achillea & veronica are

favourites (and many perennials are on special this month!)

4. When mowing your lawn, cut grass between 1-2" long and mow in different directions each time to minimize thatch and to conserve moisture.

5. In hot weather, in the morning, remember to water trees, shrubs, garden beds and lawns thoroughly and deeply at least once a week as opposed to shallow, more frequent waterings. Try using soaker hoses for increased efficiency!

6. Seed biennials such as wallflowers, bellis English daisies and Forget-Me-Nots for spring colour, as well

as pansies and kale for fall colour.

7. Prune back delphiniums and other tall perennials that have finished their first flush to encourage a second flowering later on.

8. Summer flowering trees and shrubs add beauty to your home and shade trees to reduce energy costs as well! Plant some!

9. Sprinkle a bit of lime around tomatoes to prevent blossom-end rot on the bottoms and watch for signs of early blight.

10. Transplant houseplants after July 15 into pots 1-2" bigger in diameter. They'll still become nicely rootbound by winter.

## What's Happening in Store

July is a bit of a 'Swiss Cheese' month, as we put a lot of items on special to help folks fill in the holes in their gardens. Many items from our Canada Day Weekend are still on special, so select plants, from bedding annuals to hydrangeas are between

30-70% off! Our water plants are 33% off in July too, so even the pond can get gussied up! We have seeded a late veggie crop so there are plenty of good sized plants to choose from, new summer giftware has arrived (perfect for those who like to enter-

tain indoors and outdoors), and don't forget that the café has a full menu of ice cream treats and cool drinks all summer long! Get the camera ready too, as our photo contest is starting up again. See page 2 for details. Happy Summer to all!

## Photo Contest!

We are once again holding a photo contest and we'd love to see your garden images! Photo entries are due by **Tuesday, August 31** so visit [mintergardens.com](http://mintergardens.com) today to learn about full details, rules etc. There are three categories- Landscape, Combination and Close Up- and prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place in each category. Both digital and printed images are accepted. *Good Luck and happy snapping!*



## Managing Stress

Summer heat presents many challenges to home gardens but there are some basic rules that will help you through:

1. Always water in the morning, allowing plants to be moist during the heat of the day and minimizing water loss through transpiration in the evenings.
2. When you water, do so thoroughly and deeply so that water penetrates well into the ground (or container).
3. Make sure plants are fairly dry before watering. Keeping them too wet creates a whole range of other issues, like root rot.
4. When you water trees and shrubs, make sure you allow enough time for the water to penetrate down to the roots and water around the drip line of the tree (where the feeder roots are located).
5. If plants are wilted, don't assume they're dry. They often wilt in the heat but are still okay for water. Check soil moisture

before watering. Ensure all containers have drainage holes too!

6. Always water at soil level, not on the foliage (especially on tomatoes!).
7. A weekly watering on the lawn is more than adequate but make sure you water thoroughly to get the roots growing deeper (shallow watering encourages roots to stay near the surface).
8. Drip irrigation and soaker hoses are by far the most efficient means of watering.

## Container Water Gardening *By Collette G.*

A mini-aquatic garden in a tub or container located close to the house on a deck or patio will provide you with a unique gardening experience. Containers are a great way to try out the idea of water gardening without committing to a larger, more permanent pond, and they require a smaller commitment in terms of finances and labour. As a bonus, they don't require special aerators or filtration if they are properly set up and managed.

A container with a capacity of 15-25 gallons is a practical size. Many commercial containers are available but you might also consider things like lined whiskey barrels or even old bathtubs as creative

alternatives. Choose containers with interiors that are dark in colour. Dark green, charcoal or black colours are ideal because they give the impression of greater depth, discourage algae growth and make algae less obvious when it is present. Stones and slate can be added for interest, and choosing dark coloured rock will help discourage algae in old bathtubs.

Locate the garden so that it receives a minimum of six hours of sun a day. Most aquatic plants need full sun, and though some bog plants can survive in lower light, less than six hours will decrease the blooming potential of most aquatic plants. Plants used in small aquatic gardens are grown in separate pots

that are then placed into the water-filled tub. It is a good idea to first repot your plants in an aquatic media, usually clay based. There are a variety of plant containers available, including baskets, fabric pots and even floating baskets. After the plant is potted, top the media with a 1/2 to 3/4 inch layer of pea gravel to help keep the clay in place.

Aquatics prefer to be placed at certain depths in the water, and there are three general categories to be aware of: submerged (set at least 2' down), marginal (set 3-6" below the surface) and floaters. Adjust the depth of your plants by placing bricks under the pot so the crown of the plant is at the preferred depth. About 50 - 60% of the

water surface should be covered with plant material.

A tub garden is a mini-ecosystem of plants, water and fish and this system must come into balance so that the plant and animal life are able to hold the algae growth in check. It generally takes about 3-4 weeks for this to occur. Two weeks after you set up the garden, the water may turn cloudy with algae. In another week or so, the water will clear and remain that way. The aquatic plants and fish will then keep the algae under control by reducing the sunlight entering the water and competing with the algae for nutrients in the water.



## Lovin' Lavandula

Ah lavender. What's not to love?! This group of low, woody shrubs from the Mediterranean is fast becoming a staple in the garden, whether in a sunny border or in container plantings. The flowers have a wonderful sweet fragrance and flavour that is used in everything from potpourri sachets to chocolate (check out Limbert Mountain Farm's bars in Agassiz. It's really good!), teas to bath salts. There is a wealth of varieties from which to choose. Typically they all prefer full sun and good well drained soil, are drought tolerant once established, attract butterflies, are deer resistant, and bene-

fit from a light shearing after blooming. Wow!

*L. angustifolia* (English) is hardy to Zone 4 and typically stays under 16" in height. 'Hidcote Blue' and 'Munstead' are popular compact varieties and well suited to our area. They make a great low border or hedge.

*L. intermedia* 'Provence' is hardy to Zone 5. Developed in France for the perfume industry, it is vigorous and disease resistant.

Spanish Lavender (*L. stoechas*) is not technically hardy in our area as it's a Zone 7 type. You can quickly tell

Spanish lavender from the others as it appears to have little purple 'butterflies' set atop the flowers.

This is a unique variety but does need a little extra attention over winter. 'Anouk', introduced a couple of years ago, is the first Spanish lavender approved to Zone 5, so this would be a good one to try.

Lavender looks gorgeous en masse, but it also looks amazing on it's own in a pot. Simple terra cotta will give an 'old world' feel, while a black ceramic container keeps things sleek and contemporary. Lavender

English Lavender



Spanish Lavender



is right at home in the herb garden and the rock garden, and companions well with other blooming perennials, especially if you're creating a 'Cottage Garden' look.



*Congratulations to Dave Gabbot, Winner of the BBQ! Thanks to all entrants and happy grilling Dave!*

## Water Conservation

With all this wonderful sunshine comes a great strain on our local water supply. Following these few simple guidelines will help conserve water:

### At home:

- Check for leaks on household appliances and plumbing fixtures. Toilets are a common source of leaks— to test if you have one, put a bit of food colouring in the toilet tank and wait 20 mins. If the colour moves to the bowl, you have a leak.
- Place a pitcher of water in the fridge to keep it cool instead of running the tap
- Turn off the tap while

brushing your teeth

- Wash clothes on the 'short cycle'
- Operate dishwashers only when there is a full load
- Reduce garburator use - composting and recycling will really help decrease garbage levels

### In the garden:

- Check all outdoor hoses and faucets for leaks
- Water your lawn deeply once a week instead of giving it a light watering more often
- Water plants around their roots, not over top, and in the morning instead of the afternoon



- Water by hand if you can. If using sprinklers, ensure they are hitting the right areas. Tip: Soaker Hoses & Drip irrigation are the most water efficient.
- Plant more drought tolerant plants
- Apply a 3" top dressing of bark mulch to beds to help conserve water and keep weeds down
- Sweep, don't hose down, sidewalks and pathways
- Start a rain barrel. We have a great selection here!
- Visit [www.chilliwack.com](http://www.chilliwack.com) for water regulations, tips and more!

## Plastics Recycling

Thank you to everyone who took part in 'National Plastics Recycling Week' from June 28-July 4. In the Valley alone, 183 skids were collected, diverting over 36,600 lbs of plastics from local landfills. Well done! For the other 51 weeks in the year, please be sure to recycle your plastics either with your community's curbside recycling program (as we have in Chilliwack), or find your local depot and drop them off there. Plastics should be stamped with the triangle symbol in order to be accepted. Please note that, outside of Recycling Week, we do not collect plastics at the garden center throughout the year. Thank you!

# July at Minter Gardens

The Gardens are truly stunning right now and we have a number of events, specials and activities for you to make the most of it!

## The 8th Annual Classic Car Show is Sunday, July 18 from 9am-4pm

With over 100 classic beauties set throughout the Gardens, live musical entertainment provided by The Dixie 9, the Chilliwack Spinners and Weavers Guild showing their skills and an outdoor BBQ fired up and ready to go, this really is a great event to be a part of. Visitors of all ages will enjoy seeing a bit of auto

history and speaking with vehicle owners about the story each vehicle has to tell. This year's Feature Car is a 1957 Chevrolet Belair Convertible owned by Brian Chudyk of Surrey. To see your favourite become the 'poster car' for 2011, be sure to cast your vote for the 'People's Choice' (ballots available upon entry)! We are also excited to have a few pre-1900 carriages on display, courtesy of the Thresherman's Association. It's a fantastic day to view a little auto history. We hope you can make it! Regular admission rates apply for the day and Season's Passes and coupons are valid for use! Interested in entering your car? There are still a

few spaces available, so visit our website [mintergardens.com](http://mintergardens.com) or stop by Country Garden Ltd. to pick up a registration form.

## Afternoon Getaway

Make the most of every minute of summer! In July only, visit Minter Gardens between 4-7pm and receive 50% off our regular day admission rate! So pick up a friend and enjoy a leisurely afternoon stroll. Please clip the coupon to the right and present it to our Admissions team upon entry.

## Christmas in July!

Party planners the Valley over are starting to gear up for Christmas and we'd like to help! The Envision & Trillium Conservatories are stunning holiday party venues, and if you book your group function before Labour Day we will waive the room rental fee (with food & beverage minimums being met). Should you wish to view the facilities in advance, please contact Sara or



### Admission Rates

Adult \$17.00  
Senior (65+) \$15.00  
Youth (13-18) \$9.50  
Child (6-12) \$6.50  
Tot (under 5) Free  
Family (2 Adults & Up to 4 Youth) \$38.00

Admissions: 604.794.7191

The Trillium: 604.794.7044

Wedding Inquiries: 604.792.3799

[www.mintergardens.com](http://www.mintergardens.com)



### Afternoon Getaway!

Visit from 4-7pm in July 2010 & receive 50% off our regular day admission rate! No cash value & not valid with other offers or discounts. Valid for up to 4 guests.  
Exit #135 off Hwy 1



*Minter Gardens Hours of Daily Operation for July ~ 9am-7pm (weather permitting)*

Jennifer at  
604.794.5888.

**Daily & Sunday Brunch Buffet 11am-2pm** in The Trillium. Reservations are indeed recommended so please call 794.7044 to book your place. Perfect for family get-togethers, birthdays and special celebrations!



## Be sure to visit onsite shops at Country Garden...

### AROMATICA

Aromatica's Tea of the Month is 'Strawberry Rhubarb Green Tea'! Imagine your favourite pie with none of the calories! Blending organic Japanese Sencha, Chinese Dragonwell green tea, wild strawberries, natural rhubarb flavour, blue cornflower petals and sunflower petals, it's a treat hot or cold! Ph: 604.703.1178



### ANTIQUES BY DESIGN

19th & 20th century antiques, designer furnishings, and objets d'art. Ph: 604.316.1933



### MY LITTLE GIFT BOX

Unique gifts and home décor. Ph: 604.703.1119



### ARTIZANY

Handmade gifts and artwork, artisan chocolate, coffee and more! Ph: 604.793.0045



### FARMER'S MARKET

Saturdays in the parking lot between 9am-2pm. New product is joining the lineup weekly!  
[www.ChilliwackFarmersMarket.com](http://www.ChilliwackFarmersMarket.com)

