



JUNE

TO-DO LIST

- Deadhead faded hellebores, remove old stems of pulmonaria (lungwort) and prune back spring-flowering euphorbias (*Euphorbia polychroma* and *E. griffithii*) by a third.
- Clean up rhododendrons, kalmia, lilacs and azaleas after flowering.
- Deadhead roses as well as annuals and perennials to promote more blooms.
- Don't allow clematis to become tangled and unruly. Train it the way you want it to grow over an arch or against a trellis.
- Carefully cut or pull up morning glory. You can stop it from becoming rampant by attacking it repeatedly.
- Fill containers and planters with an assortment of summer-colour plants. Don't miss the opportunity to try New Zealand flax (*Phormium*) and purple fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubrum') in large pots and planters on your deck or patio.
- Feed hanging baskets, petunias, fuchsias and pelargoniums with 20-20-20 liquid fertilizer weekly.
- Prune early-blooming shrubs such as spirea, viburnum and lilac when they finish flowering. Start new plants by taking softwood cuttings from these shrubs.
- Deal with aphids, slugs and other pests without resorting to pesticides. Hunt for slugs after rain or at night, and knock aphids to the ground using a jet of water from a hose.
- Reduce clusters of apples to reduce weight on branches and promote big fruit later in summer.
- Plant heat-loving vegetables such as peppers, cucumbers and eggplant.
- Lift and divide congested clumps of irises once they have finished flowering. Replant rhizomes to form new colonies.
- Sow sunflowers and other tender annuals.
- Practice deep watering: water lawns and flower beds to get moisture deep into the soil, and then don't water again for a week.