

Watch for Squash Vine Borer

The squash vine borer is one of the most serious pests affecting squash and pumpkin vines. Injury is caused by the caterpillars boring into the tender, lower stems of the vines or bushes causing them to suddenly wilt a few weeks later.



Squash vine borer larvae tunnel in squash and pumpkin vines.

South Dakota State University Cooperative Extension Service

Dust with an insecticide now to prevent loss of this year's squash and pumpkin plants, since the adults deposit eggs on the young stems and leaves. Apply an insecticide to the base of squash or pumpkin

plants weekly, beginning when the vines begin to run or bush begins to grow. Follow all label directions and precautions when using insecticides. (MJF)

Water Use in the Landscape

Every time you turn on a faucet, an important natural resource, water, goes down the drain. This check list will help you conserve water for lawn and garden use. Try to add these water conservation tips into your landscape and vegetable gardens. A few simple changes in your daily routine can conserve some of this important resource and help to avert waste.

- Mulch shrubs, perennials, annual flowers and vegetable plants to retain moisture in the soil longer. Use shredded

leaves, grass clippings or chopped bark around the plants. Mulching also controls weeds that compete with garden plants for water.

- Vegetables that require more water should be grouped together in the garden to make maximum use of water applications.
- Collect rain water in a barrel or large bucket from down spouts. Use it to water container plants.
- Use a drip irrigation system in your gardens. This method uses 25 to 50 percent less

water.

- Water the lawn during the morning hours. Avoid watering when it is windy or during the hottest part of the day. To avoid over watering, keep track of the time by setting a timer or alarm clock.
- When purchasing plants or developing a new landscape, select low water use plants. By making these simple changes, you can pull the plug on unwise water use and help to conserve this precious resource. (MJF)

Low Water Use Flowers for Your Landscape

In Nebraska landscapes, conserving and maintaining water quality is essential. Planting water wise flowers will help accomplish this, while providing season long color. During establishment, water wise perennials require regular

irrigation. After establishment, however, supplementary water will be needed only during periods of extended drought. The depth, width and overall health of a plant's root system determines how efficiently it uses water. To encourage

maximum root growth, wet the soil to the depth and width of the eventual root span.

Here is a list of low water use plants for you to try in your landscape. (MJF)



Garden Guide

Things to do this month

For hanging baskets in cool, shady locations, use tuberous begonias, ferns, impatiens or fibrous rooted begonias in combination with trailing plants, such as English ivy.

Remove old flower heads from annual bedding plants to keep them blooming.

Disbud chrysanthemum flowers to secure large, beautiful blooms on straight, strong stems. To disbud, remove the small side buds along the stems which form in the angles of the leaves. This will allow all of the food reserves to be used for one large flower rather than many smaller ones.

Plant annual flowers in tubs or large containers for the porch or terrace. Make sure there are holes in the container's bottom to provide good drainage.

Remove foliage from spring bulbs after it turns yellow and begins to dry. Set out bedding plants to cover the bare spots using care not to damage the bulbs.

Watch for and control blackspot and powdery mildew on rose foliage.

Use bark mulch around young trees to protect them from lawn mower damage.

Spring flowering shrubs such as spirea, viburnum, lilac and forsythia should be pruned as soon as they are done blooming.

Mid- to late-June is an excellent time to take softwood cuttings of shrubs to start new plants. Some shrubs which can be propagated in this way are spirea, lilac and viburnum.

When you buy nursery stock that is container grown, check the root ball and make sure it is not bound too tightly. A mass of circling roots will stay that way even after it is planted in the ground.

If you do not have much room to landscape, consider using some of the many dwarf varieties available. These are plants that have slow growth and stay small, so there is little pruning maintenance. There are numerous dwarf evergreens, flowering trees and shrubs from which to choose.

Keep a close eye on the quality of your spring crops. Hot weather causes lettuce to bolt and become bitter. Plant a warm season crop as soon as the spring vegetables are harvested.

In most cases, blossom-end rot on tomatoes, peppers, squash and watermelons can be prevented. Do this by maintaining uniform soil moisture by mulching and watering correctly, planting in well-drained soil and not cultivating deeper than one inch within one foot of the plant. Also avoid the use of high nitrogen fertilizers.

Continue planting warm season vegetable crops such as beans, squash and cucumbers.

The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering, when the leaves contain the maximum essential oils.

Before pouring gasoline into the fuel tank of your lawn mower, garden tiller or other garden equipment, be sure to turn off the engine and allow it to cool for at least five minutes.

Identify garden pests before you attempt to control them. If you decide to use chemical control, read the label carefully.

Bats can be an effective way to control insects. One big brown bat can eat 3,000 to 7,000 insects each night. Attract bats by building and placing bat houses in your yard.

Leftover vegetable and flower seeds may be stored in a cool dry location to be saved for planting next year.

Start a gardening notebook. Pay special attention to those plants which withstand drought conditions.

During the hot summer months, mulch can be especially useful for conserving water. For vegetable gardens, shredded leaves or grass clippings are good mulch material. For ornamentals, pine needles or wood bark do the best job.

Weed removal is important for a number of reasons. It conserves moisture, conserves nutrients in the soil and helps prevent the spread of disease and insects. (MJF)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Annual/Perennial	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Height	Location
Aster Fendler's	<i>Aster fendleri</i>	Perennial	Light purple	July-Sept	12-18"	Sun
Beebalm	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Perennial	Lavender	June-Aug	up to 5'	Sun to part shade
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	Biennial or sort lived perennial	Yellow, brown center	July-Aug	24"	Sun
Blanket Flower	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Perennial	Red with yellow	June-Aug	18"	Sun
Boltonia	<i>Boltonia asteroides</i>	Perennial	White	Aug-Oct	48"	Sun to part shade
Butterfly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Perennial	Orange	July	24"	Sun
Coneflower Purple	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Perennial	Purple	July-Aug	36"	Sun
Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Perennial	Yellow	June-Aug	24"	Sun
Gayfeather Rough	<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Perennial	Deep purple	Aug-Sept	36"	Sun
Gayfeather	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Perennial	Purple	Aug-Sept	18-24"	Sun
Missouri primrose	<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i>	Perennial	Yellow	May-July	12"	Sun
Pasque flower	<i>Anemone patens</i>	Perennial	Lavender	April-May	12-18"	Sun to part shade
Penstemon	<i>Penstemon species</i>	Perennial	Reds, pinks, white	May-Sept.	8-36"	Sun
Phlox, prairie	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Perennial	Pink	June	12-18"	Sun
Sedum, tall	<i>Sedum telephium</i>	Perennial	Rose to salmon	Aug-Oct	18"	Sun



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