

Early Summer Tips

Finish Spring Cleaning: Remove last season's dead growth, remaining dried stalks, and bulb leaves if no longer green.

Regenerate soil: Add good quality organic compost and turn in slightly to energize microbiotic activity in planting beds. We have severely malnourished soil in Tahoe and compost works like probiotics in humans, encouraging healthful bacteria and adding nutrients. On the other hand, most fertilizer fixes only give plants a temporary high.

Plant summer perennials such as gaillardia, shasta daisies, rudbeckia and asters. Best to wait until fall for shrubs and trees, if possible.

Mulch planting beds: top with 1 – 2 inches of mulch to hold in moisture and keep out weeds. Keep mulch from touching stems and trunks.

Weed while you have control: Weeds are easier to pull when they first come up rather than later in summer. Make sure you have pulled all of the roots or they will quickly form a new plant.

Prune if necessary: Our short growing season and dry conditions keep most plants from being "overgrown", but if necessary, this would be the time to prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees such as lilac, crabapple, and flowering plum. Cut above an outward facing leaf bud to prevent crossed branches. Thin out manzanita stands for enhanced appearance and for fire prevention.

Join a group of Tahoe Truckee gardeners: Share information and learn about gardening in our challenging conditions, while protecting our beautiful and fragile ecosystem. The North Lake Tahoe Demo Garden always needs new friends!

