

What the Garden Offers in June (published 2026-06-06)

By Kate O'Lenic, Master Gardener

Gardens are really humming in June. Our friends the pollinators are ramped up and having a great time tending to business. We are enjoying our cool weather crops and the flowers that grace our landscapes in late spring and early summer. And we get to be outside more making sure our gardens are in tip-top shape, enjoying the fresh air and sunshine.

There are a lot of crops to harvest in June. Cool weather crops like spinach, lettuce and broccoli are ready for the picking and if you planted some early veggies, you are ready to enjoy corn, beans, and summer squash. Some berries are ready - early blackberries, blueberries and maybe the last of the strawberries. This is a wonderful time of year to enjoy the outdoors and eat the delicious produce you've work for.

If you are inspired by the tasty bounty, you can still plant more beans, corn, gourds and cucumbers for later this year. Pumpkin seeds of the 100-day maturing variety can go in the ground at the end of June for harvest in mid-October. It is also a good time to plant watermelons and sweet potatoes. Remember crop rotation is a great way to ensure a healthy new crop. Moving crops to new spots in the garden every year or two will help dodge pests and disease that may be lurking in the soil. Crop rotation also helps with nutrients. Different crops take up different nutrients from the soil. So, moving to a different location and adding a bit of compost or fertilizer refreshes the soil and makes plants not just healthier, but less susceptible to disease and pests.

As you relax and enjoy the nice weather, stroll around your property to check for anything that needs attention. Look for pesky pests and overly moist areas where a fungal infection could start. A preventative fungicide may be needed to ensure your plants remain healthy. Plants that are setting fruit may need a boost with side-dressing. Fertilize the blueberries and strawberries. Maybe the strawberries need a little rearranging to improve next year's growth. Fruit tree cover sprays need to be continued to ensure health. As always, if you see weeds, be sure to remove them before they become a real problem. Doing a regular weed patrol and removal gives you the advantage of a tidy garden and leaves the nutrients for your flowers and vegetables.

A garden journal is invaluable to keep track of fertilization, fungal treatments and locations of plants. Make sure to note all of the treatments in your garden journal. You'll find crop rotation much easier if you have locations written down rather than trying to recall last year's arrangements.

If an area of the garden is empty after the early crops are done, consider a cover crop. The cover crop can protect the soil from erosion and can be added back into the soil as a boost to nutrition. There are different cover crop choices depending on your needs. A good option is a mixture of peas and oats. Peas provide nitrogen and the oats will become mulch after the frost kills it. In spring the remnants of the cover crop can be worked into the soil to add some natural goodness.

The resources below provide loads of details regarding the June garden activities. Maybe read through them as you snack on the yummy fresh food from your garden.

## Resources

“Tennessee Home Fruit and Vegetable Garden 2026 Calendar,”  
<https://utia.tennessee.edu/publications/wp-content/uploads/sites/269/2024/02/W436.pdf>

“Disease and Insect Control in Home Fruit Plantings,” <https://uthort.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/228/2023/11/PB1622.pdf>

“Conventional and Organic Product Overview for Home Vegetable Gardeners In Tennessee,”  
<https://uthort.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/228/2023/11/W661.pdf>

“Beans for the Tennessee Vegetable Garden,” <https://uthort.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/228/2023/11/D58.pdf>

“Plant Management Practices,” <https://uthort.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/228/2023/11/W346-D.pdf>

“Crop Rotation for the Home Vegetable Garden,” <https://extension.psu.edu/crop-rotation-for-the-home-vegetable-garden>

“Cover Crops,” <https://extension.psu.edu/cover-crops>

For more information about gardening, visit UTHORT’s YouTube site for helpful videos:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjS3d1IkIH1OZ1Z2qPvhgfQ>

Or Washington County’s YouTube site:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@utextensionwashingtoncounty>

### How do I ask a question?

If you have questions for the Master Gardeners, submit them to us on our website at [www.netmga.net](http://www.netmga.net). Click the link at the top of the page, “ASK A MASTER GARDENER” to send in your question. Questions that are not answered in this column will receive a response from a Master Gardener to the contact information you provide.

*The Master Gardener Program is offered by the University of Tennessee Extension. The purpose of the Master Gardener program is to train people as horticultural-educated volunteers. These volunteers work in partnership with the local Extension office in their counties to expand educational outreach, providing home gardeners with researched-based information.*