

Happy Summer!

Gardens, once created, need us. Nature, on the other hand, doesn't. It carries on about its business heedless of us. The seasons move through their cycles, idle winter rousing into downy spring; spring exploding into summer; and summer retiring into fall.

Gardening is what we do to wedge ourselves into the rhythms of nature, to attempt to become part of its vast drama.

Gardening situates us in the world, rather than in the attributes we often use to define ourselves. We find our insignificance in the face of this resilient but uncaring physicality reassuring and grounding. Nature may not need a garden, but we do!

Enjoy summer while it's here ...

YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED:

FLOWER SHOW:

Songs of Summer, our District Slower Show, was the featured event at the Bellevue Botanic Garden on July 19 - 20, 2025. If you did not see the show, you missed a very fun display from the talented members of our District. There were formal designs in accordance with NGC categories, Botanical Arts, Photography and lots of horticulture. Seems like there is always a plant that must be acquired after seeing the horticulture display!

The Bellevue Botanic Garden is a wonderful venue for a flower show and we had over 669 viewers who registered. This was a geographical marvel as there were several states represented and of course, a wide variety of locations within Washington.

A big Thank You to all who assisted with the Show, especially those who set-up the layout and took it all down on Sunday afternoon. A flower show is a big effort and can only be a success with the help of many members and this was a very successful show!

POST OFFICE TROUGH:

A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to check on the trough and surrounding area to make sure it is tidy and to water during the summer months.

Thanks Sandra for checking on the trough in July and removing the giant cluster of mushrooms that had grown!

August - Deb M.
September - Gale
October - TBD

SAVE THE DATES:

September 10, 2025 - first garden club meeting of the new year

September 29, 2025 - General Membership Meeting

EDUCATIONAL CORNER:

8 Plants You Should Never Cut Back in the Summer for a Happier Garden

Most plants have a growth spurt in the summer after their springtime blooms or leaves appear. With the nice weather and lush growth, it is very tempting to grab pruners, head out into the garden, and cut them back. But, for some plants, pruning in the summer will mean you will have fewer blooms or none at all next spring.

Knowing when to prune a plant [to keep it healthy and thriving is tricky](#), so here's a list of eight popular plants you should never cut back in the summer.

[Azalea](#)

Your azaleas put on an impressive and colorful display in early spring, and summer is the time the plants prepare for next year's blooms. [Any pruning should be done within three weeks after the blooms fade](#) to encourage branching

or reduce the size of the shrub. Summer pruning will reduce the number of flowers next spring because azaleas start forming next year's flower buds in mid-to-late summer.

[Forsythia](#)

The bright yellow blooms of forsythias are one of the earliest pops of color in the garden. While many gardeners love the loose, unstructured look of the shrub, forsythia should be pruned within a couple weeks of blooming if you need to control the size or prefer a more compact form. Pruning during the summer when the shrub is setting buds will reduce the number of flowers next spring.

[Crepe Myrtle](#)

Crepe myrtles put on their best show in the summer with long-lasting clusters of blooms. [Pruning at the right time](#) increases the number of blooms and helps shape the small tree to showcase its stunning bark. Crepe myrtles bloom on new wood, so they should be pruned in the late winter or early spring. Late summer pruning can leave the tree susceptible to winter damage in colder growing zones.

[Beautyberry](#)

Beautyberry shrubs put on their best show in the fall when clusters of white or purple fruit appear on the branches after the tiny, unimpressive summer blooms disappear. Beautyberry shrubs bloom on new wood, so they should be pruned in late winter after the berries have fallen or been eaten by birds. Summer pruning removes the flowers that produce winter interest in the garden.

[Abelia](#)

The fragrant blooms of abelia appear in the summer and are adored by bees and butterflies. Another shrub that blooms on new wood, it should be pruned in late winter during the plant's dormancy period, from late November to early March, before new growth appears to encourage the development of summer buds and blooms.

[Rhododendron](#)

An evergreen, flowering shrub, rhododendrons offer the gardener a wide range of flower colors, shapes, and sizes to choose from. Most bloom from spring into summer, with a slow growth rate.

The [best time to prune](#) is soon after the blooms fade before mid-summer. While dead, diseased, or broken branches can be removed at any time, heavy pruning and

reshaping should be done in late winter before new growth appears. Late summer pruning reduces the number of blooms next spring and can leave the plant susceptible to pests, disease, and winter damage.

Oleander

Oleander is a summer stunner in USDA hardiness zones 8 and above with dozens of fragrant blooms set against dark green, leathery leaves. To keep those pink, white, yellow, orange, or red blooms lush, pruning should be done in late winter because the blooms appear on new growth.

Deadheading spent blooms will stimulate the plant to produce more flowers. Wear gloves and protective clothing and gloves when pruning and deadheading as all parts of the oleander are toxic and contact with the sap may cause skin irritation. Clean pruners after each use with soap and water.

Butterfly Bush

Drawing pollinators to the garden makes the butterfly bush (*Buddleia*) a summer favorite. There are [numerous varieties of the shrub](#) and most bloom on new wood so the best time to prune is in late winter or early spring. While you can deadhead spent blooms in the summer, [hard](#)

pruning of the shrub will reduce the number of flowers and leave the plant vulnerable to winter damage.