

Summer Garden Chores Checklist



1. Watering and Irrigation

- ☐ **Check soil moisture regularly:** Water deeply but infrequently to encourage strong root systems.
- ☐ **Water early in the morning:** Prevent plant stress by watering during the coolest part of the day.
- ☐ **Mulch around plants:** Add or refresh mulch to retain moisture and suppress weeds.
- ☐ **Set up drip irrigation:** Automate watering to conserve water and ensure even moisture distribution.

2. Planting and Harvesting

- ☐ **Plant warm-season crops:** Sow heat-loving plants like tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, and basil.
- ☐ **Harvest regularly:** Pick vegetables, herbs, and fruits as they ripen to encourage continuous production.
- ☐ **Plant succession crops:** For a steady supply, start another round of fast-growing crops like lettuce, radishes, or beans.
- ☐ **Sow fall crops:** Start planning for the fall by sowing cool-season vegetables like broccoli, cabbage, and carrots indoors or in shaded areas.

3. Pest and Disease Management

- ☐ **Monitor for pests:** Regularly check plants for signs of insects like aphids, slugs, or beetles.
- ☐ **Use organic pest control:** Apply neem oil, diatomaceous earth, or introduce beneficial insects like ladybugs to control pests naturally.
- ☐ **Watch for diseases:** Keep an eye on signs of mildew, blight, or fungal infections and treat them immediately.
- ☐ **Keep weeds under control:** Weed regularly to reduce competition for nutrients and water.

4. Maintenance and Support

- ☐ **Prune plants:** Remove dead, damaged, or overcrowded branches to improve air circulation and reduce disease risk.

- ☐ **Stake and tie up plants:** Support tall or vining plants like tomatoes and beans to prevent damage from heavy fruit or wind.
- ☐ **Fertilize regularly:** Apply organic fertilizers like compost tea or fish emulsion to feed growing plants.
- ☐ **Thin out fruit trees:** Reduce excess fruit to improve quality and prevent branches from breaking under weight.

5. Shade and Heat Protection

- ☐ **Install shade cloth:** Protect tender plants from extreme heat by adding temporary shading.
- ☐ **Mulch heavily:** Apply a thick layer of mulch to help retain soil moisture and cool the soil.
- ☐ **Provide windbreaks:** Use temporary or permanent barriers to protect delicate plants from strong summer winds.

6. Garden Cleanup and Maintenance

- ☐ **Remove spent plants:** Clear out plants that have finished producing to make room for new ones.
- ☐ **Compost garden waste:** Add healthy plant material to the compost pile to build up your compost for later use.
- ☐ **Deadhead flowers:** Remove faded blooms to encourage new growth and maintain garden aesthetics.
- ☐ **Edge garden beds:** Neaten up the edges of beds to give the garden a clean look and prevent grass from creeping in.

7. Prepare for Fall

- ☐ **Start planning fall crops:** Make a list of cool-season crops to plant as summer wanes.
- ☐ **Order seeds for fall planting:** Ensure you have the seeds or seedlings needed for a smooth transition into the next season.
- ☐ **Solarize garden beds:** If needed, cover beds with plastic to kill weeds, pests, and diseases using the sun's heat before Fall planting.

