

Summer Homestead Checklist



☀️ Garden Maintenance

- ☐ **Watering:** Establish a consistent watering schedule, especially in the early morning or late evening to reduce evaporation.
- ☐ **Mulching:** Add mulch around plants to conserve moisture and keep roots cool.
- ☐ **Weeding:** Keep weeds under control to prevent competition for water and nutrients.
- ☐ **Harvest Early Crops:** Harvest summer crops like cucumbers, tomatoes, zucchini, and herbs.
- ☐ **Succession Planting:** Continue planting fast-growing crops like lettuce, beans, and radishes to maintain a continuous harvest.
- ☐ **Pest Control:** Inspect for pests (aphids, beetles) and implement organic pest control solutions such as neem oil or diatomaceous earth.

☀️ Orchard and Perennial Care

- ☐ **Harvest Fruits:** Harvest early-bearing fruit trees like cherries and peaches, thinning fruit on trees to encourage larger, healthier fruits.
- ☐ **Prune and Train:** Light summer pruning of fruit trees helps maintain their shape and remove any damaged limbs.
- ☐ **Protect from Birds:** Use nets or scare devices to keep birds away from ripening fruit.
- ☐ **Irrigate Perennials:** Ensure that perennials and fruit trees receive consistent watering during dry spells.

☀️ Livestock Care

- ☐ **Shade and Hydration:** Provide shade and fresh water for all animals. Consider adding fans for indoor livestock.
- ☐ **Fly Control:** Use natural fly deterrents like fly traps, or apply organic fly sprays to protect animals from pests.
- ☐ **Check for Heat Stress:** Monitor livestock for signs of heat stress (panting, lethargy) and provide cool areas.
- ☐ **Harvest Honey:** If you keep bees, early summer is a good time to harvest honey from hives.

☀️ Property and Equipment Maintenance

- ☐ **Inspect Fencing:** Ensure that fencing and gates remain strong and secure after any storms or damage.

- ☐ **Maintain Irrigation Systems:** Check hoses, drip systems, or sprinklers for leaks or blockages and repair them as needed.
- ☐ **Mow and Manage Grass:** Keep lawns and paths trimmed to prevent fire hazards and control insects like ticks.
- ☐ **Fire Safety:** Clear dry brush and flammable materials from your property, especially if you're in a wildfire-prone area.

☀️ Home Maintenance

- ☐ **Check Cooling Systems:** Clean or replace filters in air conditioning units, check fans and maintain swamp coolers to ensure they're running efficiently.
- ☐ **Inspect Roofs and Gutters:** Look for any damage from spring storms and clear gutters of debris.
- ☐ **Prepare for Canning:** Ensure you have supplies (jars, lids, etc.) ready for the upcoming harvest.

☀️ Compost and Soil Health

- ☐ **Turn the Compost:** Keep turning the compost pile to accelerate decomposition and add new materials like grass clippings or kitchen scraps.
- ☐ **Amend Soil:** Add compost to garden beds and perennials to maintain soil fertility throughout the summer.

☀️ Canning and Food Preservation

- ☐ **Preserve Summer Harvests:** Begin canning, dehydrating, and freezing early summer fruits and vegetables like berries, tomatoes, and cucumbers.
- ☐ **Inventory Supplies:** Check jars, lids, and other canning equipment. Clean and replace any damaged or missing parts.

☀️ Pest and Wildlife Management

- ☐ **Wildlife Fencing:** Ensure garden fences are secure to keep out deer, rabbits, and other wildlife.
- ☐ **Manage Insect Pests:** Set up traps or barriers for pests like squash bugs, and use companion planting to deter harmful insects.

