



PINK PERIWINKLES

JUNE IN THE GARDEN

Sources [Texas Garden Almanac](#), Dr. Doug Welsh, Professor & Horticulturist Texas A&M University
"Texas Gardener" Magazine, Chris S. Corby, Editor, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
(www.fgmg.com)

GARDEN TASKS



- *Mulching your flowerbeds and vegetable garden is more important than ever this month to maintain moisture and control weeds.
- *Keep deadheading those blooming plants to encourage continuous blooms. Keep a close eye on the moisture level and feed them some fertilizer.
- *Water lawns and beds between sundown and sunrise to reduce loss of moisture through evaporation. If you don't have drip irrigation in your flowerbeds you might consider converting one bed this summer. Drip irrigation is much more efficient and water wise!
- *Fertilize azaleas once more this month and deep-root water them. Use an organic fertilizer high in nitrogen or spread alfalfa pellets (available at feed supply stores) around them for slow release nitrogen. Another organic "trick" is to mix 1 ounce of either horticultural or cooking molasses in with 1 gallon of water and spray the foliage. This is great for plants in general and lawns.
- *Keep a close watch over tomatoes for adequate moisture as well as pests and diseases including stink bugs, leaf-footed bugs, spider mites, aphids and caterpillars. Products containing Bt are the least toxic yet effective on caterpillars and many other pests.

WHAT TO PLANT



- *Put in plants with colorful foliage to help replace blooming plants that fade in the summer heat. Try copper plant, caladiums, Persian shield and artemisia.
- *Plant vines that thrive in Texas summers and provide color and height. Examples are morning glory, hyacinth bean, cypress mandevilla and Rangoon creeper.
- *Many warm-season flowering plants listed last month can still be planted. Geraniums do well in summer, but prefer afternoon shade. Periwinkles love the heat and come in a variety of colors.
- *In the vegetable garden Southern peas, okra, Malabar (a spinach-type vegetable) and cantaloupe can still be planted. You may need to provide shade cover for the young seedlings for a week or two. Be sure they have adequate and consistent water. Seedlings will dry out quickly due to shallow roots.