Here are some of the top reminders for summer garden maintenance.

- **Planting:** Most plants can still be planted/transplanted in the summer, but also need watering for a few years after planting. Rain gardens should be planted in the summer to make sure your plants get well established. Some shrubs may benefit from being moved in the fall.

- **Weeding:** Temperatures are often cooler and the ground is softer, making weeding easier. Be sure to get rid of any weeds that have sprouted this season, as well as any that may have grown dormant this past winter.

- **Pruning:** Start pruning your shrubs and trees now before they grow too large. This will help them look their best and promote healthy growth.

- **Mulch:** Mulching helps retain soil moisture and reduce weed growth. Be sure to add a layer of mulch around your plants to help keep them healthy.

- **Deadheading:** Deadheading will encourage your plants to bloom longer and look better. Remove any spent flowers to prevent seeds from forming and spreading invasive species.

- **Fertilizing:** Fertilize your plants to help them grow strong and healthy. Be sure to follow the instructions on the packaging and avoid over-fertilizing.

- **Supporting Wildlife:** Keep up the good work in supporting our local wildlife. Plant natives to provide food and shelter for birds and butterflies. Support legislation that champions the health of our ecosystems. Frequently monitor your gardens and act fast when invasive plants show up. Move in.

Enjoy your garden and the critters it is supporting! If even despite your best efforts they still look a little "dead", don't give up. They might surprise you and show up next spring looking better than ever. Every time you remove an invasive species, do your best to replant that area with native species. If you don't, you are creating a newly disturbed, empty area that is ripe for that invasive species to return, or maybe new ones to move in. If you have a particularly large property, it is very likely you may need steps to keep them in check. But as mentioned above, it is easiest to avoid them from the very least it will turn off the tap of invasive species entering our landscapes.

**Native Plant Society of New Jersey's 25th Anniversary Celebration, please contact Elizabeth at 302-731-1668, ext. 201.**

**Save the Date! The 25th Anniversary Celebration, please contact Elizabeth at 302-731-1668, ext. 201.**

**Partner:**

- **3M**

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