

June 16, 2017

Flowers:

Some summer flowers that deer will rarely eat include Salvia, Vinca minor, Marigolds, Melampodium, and Geraniums. In the heat of the summer, plants will need more food and water than normal. Feed summer flowers only one time with *Garden Trust* fertilizer after planting. This application will feed them for the entire season.

Do not use [Garden Trust](#) on flowers in small containers or on houseplants. Houseplants summering over outdoors will be fed with Monterey fish and poop fertilizer bi-weekly and house plants that are indoors should be fed with Seamate every time you water with 1/2 tablespoon of [Seamate](#) mixed with one quart of water. When watering Jasmine, Gardenia, and Citrus plants, add 1 tablespoon of vinegar and 1/2 tablespoon of Seamate to every quart of water.

Outdoor container flowers and plants that are in small containers (14 inch pots or less) should be fed weekly with [Monterey fish and poop fertilizer](#). These container flowers need to be watered daily in the summer.

Shrubs:

Keep an eye out for bagworms and spider mites. Use Bonide systemic insect control spray to control them.

Vegetables:

Make a light application of [Hi- Yield Calcium Nitrate](#) on tomato plants to prevent blossom end rot. Make this application as soon as you see the plants start to form fruit.

Lawn:

- Nutsedge is a pale green, fast growing, grass like plant that grows upright and faster than bluegrass, tall fescue, or zoysia grass. Two days after mowing, nutsedge will be clearly visible. It will be several inches taller than the rest of the lawn. Spray seedlings of yellow nutsedge with [Sedge hammer +](#) as soon as you see nutsedge emerging in your lawn. On southern lawns, they may already be visible. In the mid-Atlantic they will be visible in early June. In Northern states they will be visible mid-summer.

Ground Covers/Pachysandra:

- Pachysandra grown in the sun or near large trees need to be watered during the summer to prevent leaf scorch.
- Pachysandra that looks pale may have be receiving too much sun or have an iron deficiency. If it is an iron deficiency, treat by applying [Bonide Liquid Iron](#).
- Pachysandra likely has blight if it is dying in spots; has water soaked, brownish leaves; and/or, has black stems. Wet weather, overcrowding, overwatering, and/or spider mites can cause blight. Clean the affected area by removing diseased plants. Treat with three applications of [Mancozeb](#) seven days apart.

- Oyster shell scale can affect pachysandra. The stems will look like they are covered with brown bumps. Use Bonide Annual Tree and Shrub insect control to control the scale.
- Spider mites can affect pachysandra. The leaves will be speckled or spotted and palish and dirty looking. In severe cases, webbing will be seen. Treat with three applications of [Pure Spray Green](#) in the evening seven days apart.
- Feed pachysandra with [Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer](#) in the spring (use 1 lb./150 sq. ft). Water the plant during dry periods of the summer, be careful not to overwater.
- If your pachysandra is not doing well, it may benefit from two applications of Kick Start applied two weeks apart along with an application of Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer (however, if the plant was already fed with Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer in the spring, it should not be re-fertilized) and proper watering to restore the pachysandra's vigor.

Ground Covering/Vinca Minor:

- Vinca minor planted in full sun or dry soils may have pale, green leaves, brown blotches, or dead leaves.
- Vinca minor grown in soils with a pH below 6 may have yellow or brown leaves. Apply [Bonide Hydrated Lime](#) to increase the Ph to 6.7-7. You can test your soils pH with a [Luster Leaf pH tester](#).
- Vinca may die back in spots because of fungus (dieback and canker). Wet rainy periods spread fungus. Never water vinca minor in the evening; rather, water in the morning so that the foliage will be dry in the evening. Newly planted vinca and established vinca that is watered often are prone to fungal infections. Treat fungus (dieback and canker) with three applications of [Bonide Copper Fungicide](#) three days apart.
- General solutions to keep your vinca minor healthy are: feed vinca in the spring with [Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer](#) (1 lb./ 150 sq. ft); keep the vinca well watered in the summer; water the vinca in the morning; and be sure that foliage is dry in the evening.
- If your vinca minor plants are not doing well, it may benefit from two applications of [Kick Start](#) applied two weeks apart along with an application of Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer (however, if already fed with [Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer](#) in the spring, it should not be re-fertilized) and proper watering to restore the vinca minor's vigor.