

# June Gardening by Ewshot Gardener

It has been a relief to have some exceptional warmth in early May, but the cold wet Spring has made germination patchy.

Azaleas and rhododendrons are having a good year and primroses and *Pulmonaria* have been spectacular for weeks.

These are jobs you could be doing in June, among others:

## Ornamental garden

- Gently remove spent flowers from *Camellia*, and rhododendron to make room for the leaf buds emerging behind.
- Harvest hellebore seeds once pods ripen (use gloves) and sow into pots or trays
- Divide bearded irises after flowering
- Sow biennials like sweet William, viola and wallflowers
- Divide spring-flowering bulbs.

## Lawns

- Mow regularly but, if it is hot and dry, raise the cutting height.
- Apply a high-nitrogen lawn feed (again not when dry)
- Add clippings to the compost heap in small amounts; mix them with dry material to stop it all going slimy.

## Kitchen garden

- Pinch out side shoots of cordon tomatoes
- Plant out pumpkins, squashes, courgettes and beans. You could direct sow both these and sweetcorn.
- Because sweetcorn is wind pollinated, do not plant them in a row but in a block, so the pollen gets to the stigmas of neighbouring plants.
- Harvest early potatoes when they begin flowering
- Sow autumn carrots.
- Net Strawberries and brassicas against birds.
- Sorry! But stop cutting asparagus and feed it so the crowns are ready for next year
- It looks as if apples and pears have set well in my garden. If yours have too, wait until *after* the June drop to thin fruit out! (bitter experience on my part here)

## Greenhouse

- Damp down the greenhouse floor to increase humidity and discourage red spider mite
- Feed tomatoes with a high-potassium fertiliser

## Gardens open for charity

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> June: **Froyle gardens** ; **Maple Cottage**, Searles Lane, Hook.RG27 9EQ

4<sup>th</sup>: **Beechenwood farm**, Hillside, Odiham, RG29 1JA

10<sup>th</sup>: **Tyney Hall Hotel**, Rotherwick RG27 9AZ

3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>: **Diple Mill**, Hartley Wintney RG27 8JP

23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>: **East Worldham Manor** and '**Selborne**', Caker Lane, East Worldham, Alton GU34 3AX

Refer to [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk) for details of other gardens open.

## For your diary

June 24th Crondall gardens are open for Phyllis Tuckwell

July 29<sup>th</sup> The Crondall Produce and Craft show

