



**GARDENS**

a green gift for everyone

## What to Plant in June

### Vegetables

#### **Tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*)**

- Planting: Ready plants or seeds directly in the soil.
- Care: Plant in sunny spots with well-drained soil. Water regularly and add fertilizer for good growth. Resistant varieties are recommended to avoid diseases.

#### **Peppers (*Capsicum spp.*)**

- Planting: Ready plants or seeds.
- Care: Plant in sunny spots and water regularly to maintain soil moisture. Add organic fertilizer for better growth.

#### **Zucchini (*Cucurbita pepo*)**

- Planting: Ready plants or seeds.
- Care: Plant in fertile soil with good drainage. Add organic fertilizer and water regularly for quick fruit production.



# Herbs

## **Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*)**

- Planting: Seeds or ready plants.
- Care: Plant in sunny spots or pots. Requires regular watering and good soil aeration.

## **Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*)**

- Planting: Seeds or ready plants.
- Care: Plant in well-drained soils. Drought-resistant, ideal for areas with intense sunlight.

# Fruits

## **Watermelons (*Citrullus lanatus*)**

- Planting: Seeds directly in the soil.
- Care: Plant in well-drained soils in sunny spots. Requires regular watering and plenty of sun for good growth.

## **Melons (*Cucumis melo*)**

- Planting: Seeds directly in the soil.
- Care: Prefer well-prepared soils with rich organic material. Plant in sunny places and water regularly.



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# Flowers and Ornamental Plants

## Lycianthes

- Planting: Ready plants.
- Care: Plant in sunny or semi-shaded spots with well-drained soil. Requires moderate watering.

## Adenium (Desert Rose)

- Planting: Seeds or ready plants.
- Care: Plant in well-drained soil and sunny spots. Requires minimal watering and offers impressive flowers.

## Bougainvillea

- Planting: Ready plants.
- Care: Plant in sunny spots with well-drained soil. Resistant to heat and drought.

## Begonia

- Planting: Seeds or ready plants.
- Care: Prefers shady or semi-shaded spots. Requires regular watering and well-drained soil.

## Agapanthus

- Planting: Bulbs or ready plants.
- Care: Plant in sunny or semi-shaded spots with well-drained soil. Regular watering is necessary, especially in summer.

## Platycodon

- Planting: Ready plants.
- Care: Prefers semi-shaded spots and well-drained soils. Requires moderate watering.

## Coleus

- Planting: Seeds or ready plants.
- Care: Grows best in shade or semi-shaded spots. Water regularly and add organic fertilizer for better growth.

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## Protecting Plants from Heat and Heatwaves in Cyprus

Every summer, the plants and flowers we have in the garden and in pots on the balcony suffer from excessive heat. During heatwaves, our plants need special care to cope. High temperatures and intense sunlight, especially during midday hours, can create significant problems in growth, flowering, and fruit production. In many cases, the damage caused by intense heat can be irreversible.

### Problems Due to Heat and Heatwaves

Apart from the problems caused by the sun, during the summer period, plants are vulnerable and show great sensitivity to attacks by diseases and insects. High temperatures, intense sun, and dry atmosphere cause significant problems in the basic functions of plants. As a result, extensive cell destruction occurs with negative consequences for growth, flower formation, fruit set, and the production of quality fruits. At the same time, during the summer period, due to high temperatures, many insects and diseases that parasitize stressed plants appear.



# How to Protect Plants from Heat and Heatwaves

## Regular and Ample Watering:

- Water plants regularly with more water, especially in the morning and evening hours, to reduce evaporation.
- Enhance soil moisture using drip irrigation systems.

## Moving Pots:

- Move pots to cool and shaded spots during midday hours.
- Use carts or bases with wheels for easy movement.

## Stopping Nitrogen Fertilization:

- Stop applying nitrogen fertilizer during heatwave periods, as it can intensify plant growth and make them more sensitive to heat.
- Use organic fertilizers based on potassium to strengthen plant resistance.

## Protection from the Sun with Shading Nets:

- Protect plants from the sun with special shading nets that reduce UV exposure.
- Place shading nets properly so as not to obstruct the ventilation of the plants.

## Spraying with Zeolite:

- Spray the foliage of the plants with zeolite to reduce overheating and protect against diseases.
- Zeolite helps absorb moisture and prevent burns.

## Use of Liquid Seaweed Extract:

- Add liquid seaweed extract to plants to strengthen their resistance to heat and stress.
- The seaweed extract contains natural nutrients and growth enhancers.



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## Avoid Spraying in High Temperatures

Avoid spraying or dusting with various protection products during the midday hours of summer and in heatwave conditions to prevent burns on the plant's foliage. Especially sprays with products like summer oil, wettable copper, wettable sulfur, as well as dusting with sulfur and thio-copper cause significant damage to plants when temperatures exceed 30°C and should be avoided.

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## Why the Edges of Leaves Dry Out: Causes and Solutions

Drying at the edges of the leaves is a phenomenon often observed in indoor plants and ornamental plants we have in pots on the balcony, the yard, and the veranda. The brown edges on the leaves gradually expand, covering a larger surface of the leaf, affecting the health and aesthetics of our plants. It is important to identify the cause of leaf edge drying early so that we can limit the spread of the problem and protect the plants.

### Main Causes of Leaf Edge Drying and How to Address Them

#### Reduced Watering:

- **Cause:** Water is a key element for photosynthesis and nutrient absorption by plants. The gradual lack of water and soil moisture can cause leaf edges to dry out.
- **Solution:** Ensure regular watering according to the needs of the plants and the prevailing conditions. Especially during the hot summer period, water more frequently and in greater quantity, ensuring to repeat watering as soon as the soil dries out.



# ...continuing

## Lack of Atmospheric Humidity:

- **Cause:** Plants need sufficient atmospheric humidity to function properly. Lack of humidity can cause leaf edges to dry out.
- **Solution:** Moisten the leaves of the plants to increase atmospheric humidity. We can also use humidifiers or place trays of water near the plants.

## Excessive Fertilization:

- **Cause:** Excessive use of fertilizers can cause salt accumulation in the soil, which can damage the roots of plants and cause leaf edges to dry out.
- **Solution:** Stop excessive fertilization and use fertilizers in moderation. Prefer organic fertilizers that are more plant-friendly.

## Lack of Nutrients:

- **Cause:** The lack of essential nutrients such as nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus can cause leaf edges to dry out.
- **Solution:** Use balanced fertilizers that contain all the necessary nutrients. Also, add organic matter to the soil to improve its fertility.



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## Bougainvillea: Cultivation and Care in Cyprus

Bougainvillea is one of the most popular ornamental plants in Cyprus, known for its impressive and long-lasting flowers. It loves heat and sun, making it ideal for the climate of Cyprus. Below are the best practices for caring for Bougainvillea to ensure continuous flowering and plant health

### Continuous Flowering

To ensure continuous flowering in Bougainvillea, it requires:

- **Proper Spraying:** Regularly spray with fertilizers that contain phosphorus and potassium. You can use liquid fertilizer diluted in water every 2-3 weeks during the flowering period.
- **Regular Watering:** Keep the soil slightly moist, avoiding excessive moisture, which can cause root rot.
- **Direct Sunlight:** Plant Bougainvillea in spots that receive direct sunlight for at least 6 hours a day.



# Pruning

Pruning is important for maintaining shape and promoting flowering:

- **Winter and Spring:** Lightly prune new growth in the spring to encourage branching.
- **After Flowering:** Prune more drastically after flowering ends to maintain the plant's shape and remove dead or diseased branches.

# Suitable Soil

Bougainvillea prefers:

- **Well-Drained Soils:** Use soils with good drainage, avoiding heavy clay soils that retain moisture.
- **Neutral to Slightly Acidic pH:** Ideal soil pH between 5.5 and 6.0.



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# Protection from Pests and Diseases

Bougainvillea can be attacked by various insects and fungi:

## Pests

- **Aphids:** Cause leaf curling and secrete honeydew that attracts fungi. Treat with insecticidal soaps or natural insecticides like neem oil.
- **Mites:** Cause yellowing and leaf drop. Treat with miticides or mite soaps.
- **Whiteflies:** Cause yellowing and plant weakness. Use sticky traps and biological insecticides.

## Fungi

- **Powdery Mildew:** Creates a white powder on leaves and stems. Treated with sulfur or biological fungicides.
- **Phytophthora:** Causes root and stem rot. Avoid excessive moisture and use soil fungicides.
- **Rust:** Causes orange spots on leaves. Treated with special rust fungicides.

## Prevention and Care

- **Regular Inspection:** Regularly check plants for signs of diseases and pests.
- **Cleanliness:** Remove fallen leaves and debris around the base of the plants to reduce the risk of fungal infections.
- **Good Air Circulation:** Plant at distances that allow good air circulation to reduce moisture and fungal growth.



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## Smart Irrigation Systems in Cyprus: Innovation for Effective Water Management

Cyprus, with its Mediterranean climate characterized by hot and dry summers and mild, rainy winters, presents unique challenges for irrigation and water management, making the efficient use of natural resources critical. Smart irrigation systems offer an innovative solution for optimizing water use, ensuring plant health and water conservation.

### What Are Smart Irrigation Systems?

Smart irrigation systems are advanced technological solutions that use sensors, connectivity, and algorithms to optimize water use in the garden or farm. These systems can automatically adjust the irrigation schedule based on various factors such as weather conditions, soil type, and plant needs.



# How Do They Work?

**Soil and Weather Sensors:** Soil moisture sensors are placed in the soil to monitor moisture levels in real time. At the same time, weather sensors collect data on temperature, humidity, wind speed, and the likelihood of rain.

**Connectivity:** Data from the sensors is sent to a central control unit via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. This unit can connect to an app on the user's smartphone or tablet.

**Algorithms and Programming:** Using sensor data, algorithms automatically adjust the irrigation schedule. They can decrease or increase the frequency and amount of watering according to plant needs and weather conditions.

**Alerts and Reports:** The app provides alerts and reports to the user, informing them about the garden's condition and offering the option for manual intervention when necessary.



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## Benefits of Smart Irrigation Systems

**Water Conservation:** Using sensors and automatic watering adjustments, smart systems can reduce water waste. This is particularly important in Cyprus, where water resources are limited, and the need for sustainable management is urgent.

**Increased Efficiency:** Precise water delivery to plant roots helps improve their growth and health. In Cyprus, this means that crops and gardens can thrive even in drier areas.

**Convenience and Comfort:** The ability to control the irrigation system through an app allows users to manage their garden from anywhere. This is especially useful for farmers and gardeners who are often away from home or have large areas to care for.

**Plant Protection:** Soil moisture sensors ensure that plants receive the right amount of water, avoiding problems such as drought or excessive moisture, which can cause root rot and diseases.



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## Best Practices for Installation and Use

### Choosing the Right System:

- Choose a system that suits your garden's needs and budget. In Cyprus, systems that can adapt to dry conditions are ideal.

### Proper Sensor Placement:

- Place soil moisture sensors in representative parts of the garden to ensure accurate measurements. Avoid areas with excessive shade or sunlight that may distort the results.

### Regular Maintenance:

- Clean sensors regularly to ensure their accurate operation. Check connections and replace batteries when necessary.

### Adapting to Weather Conditions:

- Monitor weather forecasts and adjust the irrigation schedule accordingly. During rainy periods, reduce or disable irrigation to avoid excessive moisture.

### Education and Awareness:

- Educate yourself and your family members on the use of the system. Understand how sensors work and how to interpret the data they provide.



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## Creating a Low-Maintenance Garden in Cyprus

Cyprus, with its Mediterranean climate characterized by hot and dry summers and mild, rainy winters, offers unique challenges but also opportunities for creating a low-maintenance garden. By choosing drought-resistant plants and applying moisture conservation strategies, you can create a beautiful and functional garden that requires minimal care.

### Choosing Drought-Resistant Plants

#### Mediterranean Herbs:

- **Lavender (*Lavandula spp.*):** Drought-resistant, with a wonderful aroma and color.
- **Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*):** Easy to care for and ideal for adding flavor to dishes.
- **Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*):** A hardy plant that offers an intense aroma.

#### Ornamental Plants:

- **Pittosporum (*Pittosporum spp.*):** With glossy leathery leaves and drought resistance.
- **Bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea spp.*):** Impressive colors and drought tolerance.
- **Carnation (*Dianthus spp.*):** With beautiful flowers and low water requirements.

#### Shrubs and Trees:

- **Olive Tree (*Olea europaea*):** Classic Mediterranean tree, drought-resistant.
- **Chaste Tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*):** With beautiful flowers and drought resistance.
- **Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*):** Decorative shrub with low water needs.



## Using Organic or Inorganic Mulch to Retain Moisture

Using organic or inorganic mulch is one of the most effective techniques for retaining soil moisture and reducing the need for frequent watering. Here are the basic guidelines for its application:

### Choosing Organic or Inorganic Mulch:

- Organic Mulch: Natural materials such as tree bark, leaves, straw, and compost. Organic mulch improves soil quality as it decomposes.
- Inorganic Mulch: Materials such as stones, gravel, and pebbles. They provide a stable cover that does not decompose but does not improve soil quality.

### Applying Organic or Inorganic Mulch:

- Soil Preparation: Remove weeds and level the soil surface before applying organic or inorganic mulch.
- Mulch Thickness: Apply a 5-7 cm thick layer of organic or inorganic mulch around plants. Avoid direct contact with plant trunks to prevent rot.
- Maintenance: Renew the organic or inorganic mulch every year or whenever you notice it has dissolved or significantly reduced.



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## Other Techniques for a Low-Maintenance Garden

### Using an Automatic Irrigation System:

- Install a smart irrigation system controlled via an app to keep plants hydrated and save water. These systems adjust the irrigation schedule based on weather conditions and soil moisture.

### Choosing the Right Substrate:

- Use well-drained substrates that retain moisture without causing root rot. Add organic matter like compost to improve soil structure.

### Companion Planting:

- Plant together plants that have similar water and nutrient needs. This makes care easier and reduces the need for separate irrigation and fertilization.

### Pruning and Maintenance:

- Regularly prune plants to encourage healthy growth and reduce the need for watering. Remove dry and diseased parts of the plants to keep the garden clean and healthy.



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# Garden Tools Usage and Maintenance Guide

## Pruning Shears

### Usage:

- Used for pruning small branches, foliage, and flowers.
- Choose the appropriate size of pruning shears depending on the thickness of the branches to be pruned.

### Maintenance:

- **Cleaning:** After each use, clean the pruning shears with soapy water to remove dirt and plant sap.
- **Disinfection:** Use alcohol or a bleach solution (1 part bleach to 9 parts water) to disinfect the blades and prevent the spread of diseases from plant to plant.
- **Sharpening:** Regularly sharpen the blades with a sharpening stone or hand sharpener to maintain the tool's performance.
- **Lubrication:** Apply a little oil to the joints and blades to prevent rust and maintain smooth operation.

## Shovels

### Usage:

- Used for digging, transporting soil, and planting.
- Choose the appropriate shovel depending on the type of work (e.g., garden shovel for planting, digging shovel for heavy tasks).

### Maintenance:

- **Cleaning:** Clean the shovel after each use to remove soil and roots. Use a stiff brush or water to do this.
- **Drying:** Ensure the shovel is completely dry before storing it to prevent rust.
- **Sharpening:** Sharpen the edge of the shovel with a metal file when it becomes dull to maintain its effectiveness.
- **Lubrication:** Apply a little oil to the metal blade to protect it from rust. Also, oil the wooden handle to prevent cracking and dryness.



## Rakes

### Usage:

- Used for gathering leaves, leveling soil, and removing weeds.
- Choose the appropriate rake depending on the task (e.g., rake with fine teeth for leaves, rake with coarse teeth for soil).

### Maintenance:

- **Cleaning:** Remove dirt and debris from the rake's teeth after each use.
- **Drying:** Ensure the rake is dry before storing it to prevent rust.
- **Inspection:** Regularly check the rake's teeth for damage or bending and fix them as needed.



## Garden Scissors

### Usage:

- Used for cutting small branches, foliage, and flowers.
- Ideal for detailed pruning and shaping of plants.

### Maintenance:

- **Cleaning:** Clean the scissors with soapy water after each use to remove plant residues.
- **Disinfection:** Use alcohol or a bleach solution to disinfect the blades.
- **Sharpening:** Regularly sharpen the blades to maintain cutting performance.
- **Lubrication:** Apply a little oil to the blades and joints to prevent rust and maintain smooth operation.



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## Hoes

### Usage:

- Used for digging, shaping soil, and removing weeds.
- Choose the appropriate hoe depending on the task (e.g., planting hoe, weed hoe).

### Maintenance:

- **Cleaning:** Remove soil and roots from the hoe after each use.
- **Drying:** Ensure the hoe is dry before storing it.
- **Sharpening:** Sharpen the edge of the hoe with a metal file when it becomes dull.
- **Lubrication:** Apply a little oil to the metal blade to protect it from rust. Also, oil the wooden handle to prevent cracking and dryness.



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## Hand Trowels

### Usage:

- Used for digging and transplanting plants.
- Ideal for detailed work and small spaces.

### Maintenance:

- **Cleaning:** Remove soil and debris from the trowel after each use.
- **Drying:** Ensure the trowel is completely dry before storing it.
- **Lubrication:** Apply a little oil to the metal blade to protect it from rust. Also, oil the wooden handle to prevent cracking and dryness.



## General Tool Maintenance Tips

### Storage:

- Store tools in a dry and shaded place to avoid rust and exposure to the elements.
- Use hooks or shelves to hang tools and keep them in good condition.

### Inspection:

- Regularly inspect tools for damage or wear and repair them immediately.
- Replace any broken or worn handles to maintain the safety and effectiveness of the tools.

### Lubrication:

- Apply a little oil to the metal surfaces and joints of the tools to prevent rust and maintain smooth operation.
- Oil wooden handles with linseed oil or another vegetable oil to prevent cracking and dryness.



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