
4-H Happenings by Anna Duncan



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Summer Gardens

The summer heat can cause even the most enthusiastic gardeners to neglect their gardens in favor of time spent in the shade with a cold glass of sweet tea. However, it is imperative that extra care be taken to ensure your plants' survival into the fall. Early in the mornings or later in the afternoons, be sure to evaluate your plants. Check for signs of distress such as discoloration, leaf curling, tip dieback, stippling, etc. Also, grab any fruits or vegetables that are ready! While you're there, pull weeds and discard or lay aside for mulch if no seed heads are present.

Water slowly and frequently during the summer months. Concentrate on the roots and be careful not to add too much water at one time. If you can, it is best to water early in the morning to give the plants time to absorb as much moisture as possible before the temperatures top out for the day. This also diminishes the risk of fungal or mildew growth from moisture that accumulates on the foliage and sits overnight. If you do water in the evening, do so before dark and be careful not to soak the foliage.

The only other task for the summer garden is to enjoy the beautiful colors and fresh vegetables! For more gardening tips like these, subscribe to the Garden Gazette newsletter by visiting our website at coffee.tennessee.edu or calling our office at 931-723-5141.

