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As we jump into summer and the temperatures rises to triple digits the question on everyone's mind is "what can survive this heat?" Actually, quite a bit provided, it is being watered adequately. Different plant varieties have different water requirements and the key to successful summer gardening, is knowing ,what is needed when. This does not mean we become a slave to our landscapes.... it just takes a bit of "paying attention" to find the solution. This said, there is not a tried and true solution to what is too much water on the landscape and what amount is not enough. The rule of thumb is 1.5" of water a week on an established landscape and 2" + on a new landscape.....do you know how long it has to rain to receive 2" of rain!

As we increase the irrigation to our landscapes, we begin leaching the soil of needed nutrients such as iron, nitrogen and manganese. These are the top three elements you notice missing first. Iron deficiency becomes obvious in azaleas/gardenias and other acid lovers when the leaves turn a limey/yellow and display green veins. One to two applications of liquid iron, liquid iron with soil acidifier, holly tone or granulated copperas will cure this. Lack of new growth and just an overall "puny" appearance is the first sign of a nitrogen deficiency. Nitrogen can be added to the lawn in the form of ammonium nitrate (slow release) and nitrite (fast release). I almost always promote using a balanced fertilizer when adding nitrogen, because if the soil is low in nitrogen, chances are high, it is low in other essential elements too. Supreme lawn fertilizer is a great summer fertilizer, slow release, 21-7-14 ration, that can be used effectively on trees, shrubs and lawn with good results. It is manufactured by Green Diamond and does not have to be watered in for two weeks. Note: granular fertilizer can not be left on the leaves of shrubs or perennials without leaving a "burn". Ensure granular fertilizer is applied to the soil and washed off the foliage immediately.

Chinch bug season is here. Chinch bugs adore hot, dry areas that

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receive little irrigation. Their attack is quick and brutal, everyone is at risk. Do not be caught off guard and leave your lawn unprotected, it only takes 2-3 days to devour huge swaths of lawn. I know this, and did not repeat my summer application of turf ranger in mid July, thus replaced 28 pallets of sod (12,600 sq') this spring due to chinch bug damage from the previous summer. A simple application of Turf Ranger, every 4 weeks (5000sq' of coverage) for 12.99 will give your lawn the protection it needs and save a small fortune in replacing sod. As the temperatures rise with almost no rain in sight, spider mites are hatching by the thousands. Juniper, tropicals, and cedar trees are their main menu but spider mites are not picky and will travel from plant to plant and person to plant. As much as many gardeners despise using systemic chemical insecticides, this is one of the insects that cannot be exterminated or even contained with an organic. Yes, I have read the claims, used the products, and stand firmly by that statement. Spider mites can wreck a greenhouse in a few weeks, so always be on the look out for tiny hair like strands of webbing between the trunk and the branches. Another sure sign is to rub the leaf of an effected plant and it feels like fine sand between your fingers...very grainy. This is spider mites which are often confused for lace

bugs, especially on azaleas and lantana. On the plus side, a systemic insecticide can be used every 2 weeks during the treatment phase and every 3-4 weeks during the maintenance program. Note: a serious infestation will need to be treated every 2 weeks for a 6-8 week period. I recommend continuing this program through September if conditions stay the same. Bonide now has the formula for di-syston (which is off the market) and bought the right to manufacture it. Bonide makes a great systemic granular that is an excellent preventative for mealy bugs, white fly, aphids, and scale on tropicals, such as, mandevila, allamandra, hibiscus, and patio plants. If you choose to go the organic path, keep plants sprayed every 3-6 days as great preventative program. Chemicals and other compounds have a shelf life of 4 years, after that,

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the oil separates and in the least case becomes ineffective....worst case, burns a plant. Always remember to use your product as directed.

Newer insecticides do not become more effective when doubled in strength....just waste the product. Older chemical brand names such as diazinon, malathion, and orthene, worked fairly well on that principle to make controlled substances.....guess, that's why they are not on the market anymore.

Looking forward to a great summer of gardening and enjoying the landscape. Happy gardening.