

[Home](#)

[Who We Are](#)

[President's
Message](#)

[Meetings](#)

[Annual Rose
Show](#)

[Membership](#)

[D the G](#)

[Activity Photo
Galleries](#)

[Members'
Gardens](#)

[American Rose
Society \(offsite\)](#)

[Site Map](#)

Around the garden with D the G - Summer, 2014

Two very important points:

Check the SUN and MULCH the garden. It's that time of year again to find your compass and check the rising and setting of the sun on the summer solstice of June 21st. of this year. Planting a specimen needing sun in an area that has sun all summer and shade in the winter is not good gardening. Also check the rising and setting sun at the winter solstice on December 21st.

Want to save water and nourish the garden at the same time. The correct answer is yes to both! Mulch serves more than one purpose. Mulch shades the ground from the sun keeping it cooler, it decomposes and feeds the soil, it encourages a healthy soil culture, weeds are discouraged, it looks good and makes a soft walking surface for us barefooters. Standing in the shade on a hot day is cooler than being in the sun.

Mulch and correct watering are the two best ways I know of saving water and nourishing the garden. Every gardener has their own opinion of how deeply to apply a layer of mulch. The range is roughly 2 –6 inches. Most of the mulch at my home is generated on site. Ceanothus and Italian Cypress generate thin leaves and crumbly pieces that are raked up and put directly under the roses, citrus, etc. You may have a Japanese Maple or other shedding plant that would work well as a mulch.

Reapply mulch as needed.

Get the roses ready for the warm months by handling their basic needs of food and water. The heat will affect bloom size, color and bloom cycle. Some gardeners do a summer prune as the roses are not at their best and there are no rose shows. I pick bouquets with longer stems in the summer which is a sort of a summer prune.

There is still time to plant tomatoes, squashes, basil and all other warm season edibles.

Check your sprinkler systems!!! Mulch the garden!!! Keep feeding roses, lawns, seasonal flowers, vegetables, herbs, per package instructions.

Happy Gardening,
D the G
[Dave's Greenscapes](#)

The Rose, sacred to Venus, signifies love, the nature of which is characterized by the color of the rose. A white rose represents innocent love, a pink rose represents first love, and a red rose true love.