June 2013 Hilltop Gardening Tips

- Prune the bigleaf or florist hydrangea when the flowers fade.
- Remove water sprouts on any fruit trees and crabapple.
- Cut off the faded flowers of phlox, shasta daisy and daylily to encourage a second flowering.
- Trim yellowing and dried up foliage of your spring flowering bulbs.
- Pinch your chrysanthemums to encourage branching.
- Watch the following landscape shrubs for the following insect pests: arborvitae and junipers - bag worm, boxwood and hollies - leaf miner, crapemyrtle – aphid, and pyracantha and azalea – lace bug.
- Spray the following vegetables if insects are observed: cucumber (cucumber beetle), squash (squash borers and aphids), tomato and eggplant (flea beetle), broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower (worms).
- Keep spraying your tree fruits and bunch grapes with a pest control program.
- Check your asparagus plants for the asparagus beetle. Spray with the recommended insecticide if beetles are observed.
- Continue with rose spray program. Black spot is prevalent this year.
- Watch for dark brown spots on your tomato leaves. If observed, spray with a fungicide for early blight.
- Renovate your strawberry bed after the berry harvest is completed.
- Check your tomatoes for blossom end rot on the fruit as it begins to form. This is usually an indication of a calcium deficiency. Place a handful of gypsum in the soil beside the tomato at planting (or later) to prevent this. Foliar sprays such as blossom end rot spray will also help alleviate the problem. Nothing will "heal" the fruit with rot on it, so remove and discard them.
- Check container plants daily. Don’t let these dry out. Fertilize often as they lose nutrients quickly.