

# June 7: This week in the garden



**Plant** perennials, annuals, beans, corn, okra and Bermuda grass.



**Prune** off dead rose blossoms by clipping the stem above the first set of five leaflets beneath the flower. Pinch out the top buds of dahlias and chrysanthemums to encourage full, bushy plants. Pinch out the suckers (stem growth between leaves and main stalk) on tomatoes.



**Fertilize** vegetables, annuals and perennials as you put them in and again six weeks later. Do not fertilize under dry conditions to avoid burning plants. Roses should be fertilized monthly with 10-10-10 until September. Bermuda grass should be fertilized with a high-nitrogen lawn fertilizer.



Squash, pumpkins, gourds, watermelons, muskmelons and cucumbers can all fall victim to the **squash vine borer**. The borer is a dark-headed worm that tunnels through the interior of the plant, usually from the base of the stem, leaving sawdustlike frass at the entrance hole. The larvae hatch to become a clear-winged moth. Eggs are brown, disk-shaped and laid on the main stem. Once a borer is in the plant, the plant will quickly wilt and sometimes die suddenly. Barriers — such as a ring of wood ash, aluminum-foil mulch, or a paper cup cut around the stem and formed together again — may deter the egg-laying moths.