

## May Lawn & Garden To-Do List

### Trees and Shrubs

- Fertilize azaleas, rhododendrons, and camellias after they bloom.
- Prune spring-flowering trees and shrubs soon after they bloom.
- Fertilize roses, and watch for fungus and disease.
- Plant container-grown trees and shrubs. Stop planting bare-root trees and shrubs.
- Transplant trees and shrubs before hot weather.
- Prune away winter damage.
- Lightly prune evergreens.
- Apply mulch to shrubs with shallow roots.

### Perennials and Bulbs

- Pinch back mums and asters.
- Don't cut foliage on spring bulbs.
- Plant summer bulbs after your last frost.
- Deadhead perennials and bulbs all season.
- Fertilize bulbs after blooming.
- Plant perennials before the heat of summer.
- Transplant perennials before they are 6" tall, and don't disturb spring-bloomers until fall.
- Install stakes and supports for large perennials.
- Train vines to grow up trellises and fences.
- Apply mulch to clematis vines, or plant a low-growing ground cover.

### Annuals and Containers

- Plant summer annuals after last frost.
- Deadhead annuals throughout the season.
- Pinch back any leggy growth.
- Fertilize tropical bloomers (like hibiscus) to encourage more growth and flowers.
- Be sure to use fresh potting soil in your containers.

### Lawns

- Fertilize warm-season grasses. Stop fertilizing cool-season grasses to prevent heat damage.
- Mow cool-season grasses at 2"- 3" or higher. Warm season grasses can be cut lower.
- Apply post-emergent weed control products to broadleaf weeds.

### Vegetables and Herbs

- Enjoy cool-season vegetables before hot weather brings an end to the harvest.
- Plant warm-season vegetables the after last frost.
- Plant successive crops of veggies every few weeks to extend your harvest.
- Keep control of weeds.
- Address insect and disease problems right away.
- Enjoy strawberry season while it lasts!
- Keep up with the harvest, to encourage your plants to continue producing.
- Don't apply any sprays to plants that are blooming or fruiting.

### Houseplants

- Once nighttime temperatures are above 50° F, put your houseplants outdoors on a shady porch to protect them from strong sun and wind.
- You can also bury your potted houseplants up to the rim in your planting beds to add texture.
- Repot root bound houseplants.
- If not repotting, remove the top inch of soil and replace with fresh compost.

### Cleanup and Maintenance

- Make sure that lawns and gardens receive an inch of water per week. Hand water new transplants.
- Turn your compost pile regularly.
- Get ready for bird nesting season!
- Feed the hummingbirds.
- Apply mulch to keep the soil cool this summer.
- Watch out for lace bugs and aphids this month.
- Remove bagworm sacs from conifers.
- Take photos of blooming plants, and go shopping!
- Visit a specialty plant nursery and try something new this year.
- Remove (or prune) invasive vines while they're manageable.
- Add water lilies to your pond when the water temperature reaches 70° F.
- Use cuttings and trimmings to make more plants.