

## May Garden Calendar

For those with a green thumb (and those with not so green thumb), here are the shared ideas from Extension of what you could be doing in your landscape areas during the month. Personally, it does seem vegetable gardening has been a slow season for growth except for weeds. Fruit trees in some landscapes were damaged by the freezes and will not produce fruit this year.

### Vegetables and Fruits:

- Plant tomato, pepper, and eggplant transplants as soils warm in early to mid-May
- Seed sweet corn, cucumbers, squash, beans, and other warm season vegetables
- Lightly cultivate soil with a hoe to control weed growth
- Mound soil around potato plants to encourage tuber formation
- Harvest fresh asparagus until the spear size decreases
- Remove rhubarb seed stalks to encourage leaf growth
- Plant kitchen herbs for summer use in dishes or food preservation
- Treat fruit trees with needed pesticides to control insects and disease if you have fruit
- Thin heavy fruit set on apples and peaches to increase fruit size (if you have fruit)

### Flowers

- Plant annual flowers for summer color
- Continue to plant and divide perennials
- Mulch for weed control and moisture retention
- Begin pinching chrysanthemums for bushier plants
- Do not remove foliage from spring bulbs until it dies down naturally, this develops stronger blooms for next year
- Plant container gardens and hanging baskets using a good quality potting mix
- Keep a garden journal for permanent reference

### Lawns

- Apply slow release nitrogen fertilizer to bluegrass and tall fescue to promote summer growth if watering during the summer. Lower maintenance lawns skip this application
- Mow bluegrass and tall fescue at 3 inches
- Spot treat broadleaf weeds
- Fertilize zoysia lawns with high nitrogen to promote green up and summer growth
- Mow zoysia at 1 to 2 inches tall
- Withhold early summer watering until needed to promote more drought tolerant lawns

### Trees and Shrubs

- Plant new trees and shrubs
- Prune spring flowering shrubs after bloom to shape plant and encourage flowers next year
- Mulch around young trees and shrubs to conserve moisture and control weed growth

- Water young ornamentals as needed
- Remove tree wraps for summer growth
- Remove tree stakes that have been in place more than one growing season
- Fertilize trees to help increase growth rates
- Caution, don't use line trimmers around trees and shrubs – they easily damage plants permanently

#### Houseplants

- Move plants outdoors for summer by gradually increasing the exposure to sunlight
- Fertilize plants to promote summer development
- Rotate plants to develop a well-rounded plant
- Repot plants into a one inch larger pot
- Check for insects