

What TO DO in your garden in May

Annuals & Perennials

- Begin planting tender summer annuals now including flowering vinca. Begin fertilizing summer annuals with **Plant-tone** for large summer flowers
- Pinch back Mums and feed with **Pro-Start** to promote bushy growth.
- Deadhead early blooming perennials and mulch with **Cottonbur compost** to control weeds.
- Sow seeds of summer annuals directly in the ground such as sunflowers and zinnias.
- Complete planting of borders and divide overcrowded perennials. To reduce transplant shock use **Pro-Start Organic** fertilizer or **Ferti-lome Root Stimulator**.
- Prevent weed germination in your borders and beds by applying **Corn Gluten Weed Preventer** or **Preen**. Do not use these products if you will be sowing any flower seeds.
- Spray **RoundUp** on actively growing weeds or grass in your beds and borders. Target the weed, as **RoundUp** is non-selective.
- Spray **RoundUp Extended Control** to kill all weeds and keep any weeds from sprouting on patios and driveway.
- Slugs hide under large leaves, create a slug barrier around your hostas and other tasty perennials, use **Sluggo** or **Natural Guard Crawling Insect Control, with Diatomaceous Earth** regularly.
- Use **BioNEEM Insecticide and Repellent** for aphids and/or caterpillars on new growth of perennials and annuals.
- Use **Bayer All-in-One Rose & Flower Care**, to control mildew and phlox plant bug on garden phlox.

Roses

- Use a **sun-stick** to measure the amount of sunlight in your planting area to determine whether you have enough light for roses before planting.
- When planting new roses mix **Cottonbur Compost, Worm Castings, Soil Perfector** (to help break-down heavy clay soil), **Organic Traditions Bone Meal**, and **Espoma Rose-tone** into your soil.
- Apply **Bayer All-in-One Rose & Flower Care** every six weeks for insect control, fungus control and fertilizer.
- For an organic fungus control solution, use **Actinovate**.
- Keep rose beds clear of dropped leaves and petals and deadhead spent blooms regularly to prevent the spread of black spot.
- Knock Out Roses are disease resistant so no spraying is needed. Fertilize all roses monthly with **Rose-tone**.
- Roses are thirsty plants. Each rose needs 5 gallons of water per week to thrive.

Vegetables and Herbs

- When planting vegetables, use **Myke® Vegetable Garden** near the plant roots. Myke is an all-natural product that allows for rapid growth development while ensuring better recovery and survival after transplanting.
- For extended lettuce harvests, grow under **Harvest Guard Row Cover** to keep it shaded and slow down bolting.
- Begin planting sweet corn, summer squash and watermelons as cool season crops are harvested. Side dress vegetables with **Worm Castings** for increased production.
- Keep asparagus harvested for continued production. Use **Monterey Garden Insect Spray** for Asparagus Beetle and caterpillars on broccoli and cabbage plants.
- Give vegetable plants a boost by feeding them with an organic fertilizer such as **Gro-tone** or **Fish Emulsion**.
- Plant all warm season herbs and vegetables now, including basil and tomatoes. Set stakes in to support the tomato plants at the time of planting. See our website for a complete list of the 2011 tomato varieties.
- Fertilize Blueberries and raspberries with **Holly-tone fertilizer** to increase harvest. Remember adequate water is essential and install soaker hoses.
- Strawberries are in full flower and berry production now, keep them well watered, fertilize with **Garden-tone fertilizer**. To prevent slug damage and fungus on the berries put a layer of **Soil Perfector** around and under the plants.

Trees and Shrubs

- Use all natural *Myke*® when planting new trees and shrubs to increase the development of the root system. If you buy Myke® at the same time you buy your new trees you will receive a 5-Year Warranty!
- Use *Bayer Advanced 12 month Tree & Shrub Insect Control* to prevent damage from Japanese Beetles, leaf minor damage on hollies and boxwoods and Lacebug damage to azaleas.
- Use *Organic Monterey Garden Insect Control with Spinosad*, to control Japanese Beetles, caterpillars, thrips, bagworms, beetles and others on ornamental shrubs.
- Consult University Extension Guide G6010 for when to spray fruit trees. Use *Actinovate* to prevent mildew and molds on trees and shrubs.
- Use *Treegator 14 gallon Irrigation Bags* on newly planted trees to insure proper watering.
- Spray *All Seasons Spray Oil* on scale infested pines and euonymus now when the crawlers are active.
- If not done in earlier, apply *Organic Traditions Garden Acidifier* to blue-blooming hydrangeas or *Color Me Pink* or *Color Me Blue* on your hydrangeas to make sure you get the color you prefer.
- Apples Crabapples and Hawthorns susceptible to rust disease should have a protective spray such as *Liqui-Cop RTS*, applied beginning when these trees bloom.
- If spring rain has been sparse, begin irrigating, especially plants grown in full sun and those blooming in spring. Use *soaker hoses* to distribute the water evenly without causing soil erosion.
- Use *Holly-tone* for evergreens or pines, spruce, junipers, dogwoods and *Tree-tone* for deciduous trees.
- Use *Holly-tone* fertilizer on Azaleas and Rhododendrons after bloom.
- Forsythia and other spring flowering trees and shrubs (Spirea, Mock Orange, Lilac, Magnolia, Rhododendron, Azalea, etc.) should be pruned immediately after flowering to promote new growth for next year's flowering.

House Plants

- Bring Tropical plants outdoors as night temperatures stay above 50°. Start them in a shady location and gradually move to brighter light to prevent sunburn. Fertilize with *Osmocote* or *Gro-tone*.
- Apply *Miracid* or *Holly-tone* or *Citrus-tone* to gardenias and citrus plants every 3 to 4 weeks.
- Use *All Seasons Spray Oil, on ficus, gardenia or citrus plants* if scale or mealy bug is a problem.
- Use *Palm-tone* to feed all palms and hibiscus and *Citrus-tone* for citrus and avocado plants.

Lawn

- Zoysia lawns may be fertilized now. Apply *Fertilome Classic Lawn Food* or *Organic Lawn Food*.
- Apply post-emergent broadleaf weed control, *Weed B'Gon Max*, to kill weeds and crabgrass in your lawn.
- Water newly laid or seeded lawns. Use *rain gauges to monitor rainfall*. Gardens need about 1" inch of water per week through September.

Bulbs

- Plant summer bulbs such as dahlias, cannas, elephant ears and hybrid lilies now. Mulch with *Cottonbur compost* and keep them well watered.
- Spring blooming bulbs can be moved or divided as the foliage dies. Use *Bulb-tone* when replanting

Compost

- Save kitchen vegetable scraps and egg shells in *compost carrier* to add green matter to compost pile.
- As you continue to add leaves and natural debris to your compost pile, be sure to turn your pile and add *Organic Traditions Bio-Excellerator* to aid the "heating up" process.
- Keep compost pile moist. Add water if needed.

For the Birds and the Bees

- Keep bird feeders full to welcome the return of migrating birds to your garden.
- Fill *Hummingbird Feeders* with *Nectar* as the hummingbirds return to St. Louis.
- Make sure bird baths are cleaned and filled with fresh water regularly.
- Protect bees by not spraying fruit trees when in bloom.
- Trap wasps with wasp catchers rather than using dangerous sprays.