

May Gardening Calendar

LAWN CARE

- Sow or Fertilize warm-season grasses like Bermuda, Zoysia and St. Augustine.
- Do not fertilize cool-season grasses like tall fescue Kentucky bluegrass, and perennial ryegrass.
- Tall fescue and bluegrass should be mowed at a height of 2 ½ to 3 ½ inches.

FERTILIZING

- Long season vegetables such as crop should be side-dressed 6 to 8 weeks after germination.
- Fertilize summer flowers as well.
- Feed hybrid rhododendrons and azaleas with an acid fertilizer.

PLANTING

- Vegetables to be planted in May: snap beans, pole beans, bush lima beans, cantaloupe, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, southern peas, sweet peppers, hot peppers, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes and watermelons.
- Summer annuals and summer blooming bulbs can also be planted.

PRUNING

- Hybrid rhododendrons and azaleas can be pruned as soon as they finish blooming.
- Outgrown hedges can be pruned.
- Pinch off garden mums until mid-July.
- Pick off any azalea leaf galls that may form.
- Spring bulb foliage should not be cut back until yellowing of foliage occurs.

SPRAYING *Pesticides should be used sparingly! Use only when needed and always follow the label directions*

- Scout and spray for bagworms on shrubs and trees.
- Use recommended herbicide to control poison ivy and honeysuckle if desired.
- Start spraying squash vines to prevent borers.
- Start fungicide treatment on tomatoes, which show signs of blight.
- Continue with a rose spraying program.
- Continue fungicide program for fruit trees and bunch grapes.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Observe landscape shrubs for azalea-lace bug, boxwood-leaf miner, euonymus-scale, hemlock, juniper-spruce mites and hybrid rhododendron-borer.
- Observe broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower for worms and spray if needed.
- Consider putting down mulch in beds to help with weed control. Good mulches are pine needles, cypress mulch and pine bark.



Plan a stroll through the
Nash County Arboretum
located at
1006 Eastern Avenue in Nashville.
The beautiful arboretum gardens
are maintained by the
Nash County Master Gardener Volunteers.



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