

Things you could or should be doing in your garden in...

...MAY

- ✦ Plant heat-loving annuals, such as coleus, periwinkle, begonias and lantana, and summer bulbs, like caladiums and elephant ears.
- ✦ Watch newly planted trees and shrubs for drought stress; their roots have not grown into the native soil yet and need supplemental watering to become established.
- ✦ Be on the lookout for black spot on roses and begin a 3-in-1 product for season-long protection on hybrid teas or plant low maintenance shrub roses that are more disease resistant.
- ✦ Prune side shoots on climbing roses back to 6-8" long after flowering to promote more flowering shoots for next year.
- ✦ Combat outbreaks of aphids and thrips on garden plants; spray early with insecticidal soap or neem oil to prevent infestations before they get a foothold and become widespread.
- ✦ Apply BT (bacillus thuringiensis) to all needle evergreens to control bagworms.
- ✦ Deadhead annuals regularly to encourage flowering throughout the season.
- ✦ Deadhead bearded iris after they have finished flowering so that energy is not wasted on seed production.
- ✦ Stake and mulch all tomatoes in the garden, and prune off suckers. Make sure tomatoes receive even moisture during flowering and early fruit set; maintain even moisture levels to discourage blossom end rot.
- ✦ Sow beans, peas and okra directly in the garden once temperatures reach 60F.
- ✦ Protect squash plants with spun-bound row cover to keep the squash vine borer moth from laying eggs on young squash and zucchini vines.
- ✦ Control broadleaf weeds in lawns with an appropriate post-emergent herbicide.
- ✦ Apply a second application of turf fertilizer in warm season (Bermuda, zoysia) grasses using 1lb/1000sqft of actual nitrogen.
- ✦ Water lawns deeply and intermittently to encourage deep rooting; apply at least ½" of water at one time before 10am.