

May Garden Calendar

Vegetables and Fruits

Plant tomato, pepper, and eggplant transplants in early 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
Thin heavy fruit set on apples to increase fruit size and next year's crop

Flowers

Plant annual flowers for summer color
Continue to plant and divide perennials
Mulch perennial and annual gardens 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

Reduce thatch layers from zoysia by verticutting or core aerating
Sod or sprig zoysia lawns to fill in bare areas
Fertilize zoysia lawns with high nitrogen to promote green up and summer growth
Mow zoysia at 1 to 2 inches tall
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
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, use line trimmers around trees and shrubs so as not to damage tender bark

Houseplants

You may 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
Wash dusty leaves in the shower under room temperature water
Four to six inch cuttings are a great way to start new plants, root in potting mix under low light
Repot plants into a one inch larger pot
Check for insects

Miscellaneous

Set out Hummingbird feeders

Local Horticulture Happenings:

Farmers Market starts at CiCo Park on Wednesdays and at 5th and Humboldt Parking lot on Saturdays.

The Town and Country Garden Club plant sale on the first Saturday.

For Mothers Day, noon to 4:00 p.m. visit the KSU Gardens (1500 Denison Ave.) iris display.

Additional resources for the month:

Tomatoes MF-312

Perennial Flowers MF-2772

Annual Flowers MF-2769

Maintaining Good Lawns with Less Water MF-2068

