

The May HORT REPORT

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

LAWN & TURF...

- Cool-season lawns can be fertilized again. If you did NOT fertilize cool-season grasses in March or April, do so now.
- Warm-season lawns may be fertilized again this month.
- Seeding of warm-season grasses, such as Bermuda, buffalo, and zoysia grass, is best performed in mid-May through the end of June. By this time, the soil temperatures are warm enough for germination and the grass will have an adequate growing season, which will promote winter hardiness.
- Dollar Spot disease can become visible in lawns around mid-May. Make certain fertilizer applications have been sufficient before ever applying a fungicide.
- Nutsedge becomes visible this month. Treat it with a post-emergent. Make certain warm-season grasses have completed green-up before applying.
- The second application of pre-emergent annual grass herbicides can be applied in late-May or early June, depending upon timing of first application. Check label for details.
- Vegetative establishment of warm-season grasses can continue.

TREES & SHRUBS...

- Prune and feed azaleas immediately after blooming.

INSECT ALERT...

- Bagworms might appear on junipers and arborvitaes (Late May).
- Elm leaf beetles and larvae might appear on elms (Late May).
- Lace bugs might appear on sycamores, pyracanthas, and azaleas.
- Soak new transplants and newly planted trees, unless rainfall is abundant.
- Pine needle disease treatment is needed by mid-May.
- Shake a leaf over white paper to look for spider mites. If the tiny specks begin to crawl, mites are present.

FLOWERS...

- Annual bedding plants can be set out for summer color.
- Plant summer bulbs such as cannas, dahlias, elephant ears, caladiums, and gladiolus.

FRUITS & VEGETABLES...

- Plant watermelon, cantaloupe, cucumber, eggplant, okra, and sweet potatoes this month.

- Fruit tree spray programs should be faithfully continued during the next several weeks.
- Late May is the best time to control borers in the orchard. Check for label recommendations and controls.

WATER GARDENS...

- Clean out water gardens and prepare for the season. Divide and repot water garden plants.
- Begin feeding fish when water temperatures are over 50 degrees.

THE POWER OF THE FLOWER

PLANT HAPPINESS! We have many opportunities to promote the benefits of plants for human health and psychology. Planting provides comfort, hope, and a human touch!

SUMMER TO FALL BLOOMERS

Not all plants that flower do so only once a year. To keep the floral element in your garden, consider these plants, as they will re-bloom to transfer your garden with each new season.

HYDRANGEA (Zone: 4-9)

The “Endless Summer” hydrangea was developed to bloom throughout the summer. The color will be pink if you have acidic soil and blue if your soil is more alkaline. In our area, they like to be planted on the North or Northeast side of the house. They typically reach a height 3-5’ tall and have a spread of 3-5’, at full maturity.



CLEMATIS (Zone: 4-9)

Several varieties of clematis bloom during early summer and again in early fall. They do well in full sun. The Clematis is a wonderful flowering vine that makes a great choice for a patio container, trellis, or fence.



DAYLILY (Zone: 4-11)

Many varieties, such as the Stella De Oro Daylily (pictured here) will bloom almost continuously in early summer and continuously into fall. Plant in full sun for best blooming. They are drought tolerant and just require an occasional watering once established. Foliage reaches 1 ft. tall: flowers reach 2½ ft. tall.



LANGANA (Zone: Varies)

The lantana offers many varieties from which to choose. Some are perennial, while others we plant annually. All bloom continuously and are hummingbird and butterfly magnets.

MY FAVORITE: The 'Dallas Red' lantana. Try it out in your garden... you'll be glad you did!



YARROW (Zone: 5-9)

Yarrow plants love the full sun, are drought tolerant, and there are many colors from which to choose. The yarrow plant is also hummingbird and butterfly friendly! And yes, you guessed it... blooms early summer through early fall.



RUSSIAN SAGE (Zone: 5-9)

The 2021 "Perennial of the Year". Russian sage does best in full sun. It is a drought tolerant shrub that reaches 3-4 ft. tall and wide, at maturity. A low maintenance choice for attracting hummingbirds and butterflies.



CHASTE TREE (*Zone: 5-9*)

A POLLINATORS DREAM! The chaste tree is a drought tolerant, easy-care choice. It shows large clusters of fragrant lilac-colored blooms from summer to fall. Want to know the best part? It can be pruned to any size... a shrub or tree!



MILKWEED

Milkweed is the *ONLY PLANT* the Monarch butterfly will lay her eggs on. Plant milkweed and you will be hosting the Monarch butterfly into your landscape and with a little luck, you will be able to see the butterflies come to life! It is an amazing thing to see and share with children! I encourage you to plant milkweed today. It is full sun and drought tolerant!