



GARDEN CARE FOR MAY

Planting Begins

As cleaning continues, be careful of the little sprouts arising. Sprouts from re-seeding morning glories, daisies, hollyhocks and other freely seeding plants will be volunteering, so make use of them and transplant to other spots.

- It's been warmer than, and the planting urge is here. Lettuces and Greens can go in at any time. Watch the tomato, pepper, zucchini and cucumber plants. They don't do well in the cold. It is suggested that they go in from Mothers Day on.
- When planting your vegetable plants, remember to throw a handful of Bumper Crop and fertilizer in to get it all started. A good fertilizer works best when the weather is warm. Espoma Plant Tone is a good, general fertilizer.
- Bedding Plants like Impatiens, Petunias, Marigolds, and Begonia can all be put out when the danger of frost is over. Again, Mother's Day is a good starting point for all warmth-loving plants.

Pruning Continues

As the Forsythia and Fruit Tree blossoms die, it's full tilt into rose and shrub pruning. If you haven't pruned your bushes yet, now's the time to get started. Prune away any dead and dying branches to let the air and light filter in. Start spraying roses with a good systemic insect and disease preventer such as Bayer 3 in 1. Lasting for a month, even in the rain, it will keep your roses insect and disease free in the vulnerable hot and humid months.

- Now is the time to prune all spring blooming shrubs and trees. New growth is needed for most of these to bloom next year, so don't wait. Pussy Willow, Forsythia and Viburnums need summer growth to bloom next year as well.
- It's a good time to prune back the Buddleias (Butterfly Bush). These can be pruned back heavy and hard to promote thicker stems and bigger flowers.

Time to Plant Seeds

- Seeds like Morning Glories, Zinnias, and Marigolds can go straight into the ground and will germinate quickly in the warmth. Vegetable seeds such as Beans, Peas, lettuce, Zucchini, and Pumpkins can be directly sown as well

More Tips...

- Summer bulbs such as Dahlias, Gladiolus, Lilies, Canna, and Elephant Ears can be put out in the garden now.
- Give your houseplants a new, bigger pot with fresh soil and fertilizer.
- As the weather gets warmer, the pansies will start to wilt. Replace with fresh annuals that bloom all summer long. Dianthus, Petunias, Angelina, Bacopa are some of the choices for a gorgeous, long lasting urn or pot.