

May

- Sharpen your lawn mower blade monthly. A dull blade can pull grass seedlings from the soil instead of cutting them and ragged cuts invite disease.
- If your lawn is bluegrass/fescue (cool season grasses) do not fertilize now. Fall is the proper time to fertilize cool season grasses.
- Watch for pests in outdoor containers. Pull weed and grass seed and be on the lookout for chewing insects, such as caterpillars and loopers. Spider mites may be partially controlled by frequent spraying of water from the garden hose.
- Cover sprouting seedlings with upside down berry baskets to keep birds from pulling them up.
- To keep garden plants growing at a steady rate, fertilize them with manure tea or diluted fish emulsion every six weeks.
- Lightly sidedress perennials, including spring bulbs with a 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 fertilizer, being careful to avoid the center or crown of the plant.
- Caladiums need generous amounts of water and fertilizer to encourage continuous production of new leaves during the summer. Apply a light, side dressing of 5-10-5 fertilizer every two weeks, and water thoroughly to encourage bright-colored foliage.
- Plant gladiolus corms now. For best bloom water thoroughly once a week after the spike begins to show above the soil.
- Pinch back annuals when 4"-6" high to promote bushy growth.
- Set out marigolds, petunias, ageratums and fibrous begonias.
- Prune rhododendrons immediately after flowering. Old clusters should be removed but take care not to damage new growth.
- To keep garden plants growing at a steady rate, fertilize them with manure tea or diluted fish emulsion every six weeks.
- As soon as the danger of frost is over, amaryllis that was forced into bloom can be placed outdoors for the summer. The potted bulb should be placed in a shaded location and fertilized with 1 tsp of 5-10-10 fertilizer. Bring it indoors before frost. Let the soil dry completely so the bulb will go into dormancy. After leaving it in a cool, dark place for 8 weeks, bring it back into the light and begin watering. In about 8 weeks, your amaryllis should bloom again.
- Dig and divide dusty miller in the spring and replant the more vigorous, outside portions of the clump. Fertilize liberally during the growing season.