



# MAY GARDENING TIPS

\*Pest activity increases this month.

\*As weather heats up, watering needs to be monitored more closely.

Watering deeply and more infrequently is better than shallow, frequent watering. (New plantings need more water to help them get established.)

## ANNUALS

-Rejuvenate leggy petunias by cutting them back by 1/3 and offering them fertilizer and a deep watering right after.

-By the end of the month, cool season annuals will probably be ready to be pulled out to make room for warm weather annuals. Rework your bed by removing weeds, turning soil, and adding 3-4" of compost mixed in well.

## BULBS/RHIZOMES

-Cut off any fruits from daylilies as they can take away from future blooms, but **WAIT** to cut off the foliage of spring-blooming bulbs when it has turned yellow/brown.

-Gingers can be planted in shady areas now that the weather is warming up.

## FRUIT

-Mulch fruit trees to help them survive summer, but **DON'T** pile mulch against trunk).

-Watch for webworms in pecans, persimmons, mulberries, and other fruit trees. Early detection is best. Open web bags hanging in trees with a long pole so that wasps can zoom in and attack the webworms. Bt is an option to spray but difficult to get into the webs, and reach due to the height of trees.

## TURF/GROUNDCOVERS

- If you need to apply broadleaf weedkiller, make sure you do so in the cool morning hours (this month may be the last month you can apply) and read label carefully to choose the correct product for your turf.

-Second application of pre-emergent can be applied to continue preventing pesky sand burs (if you made the first application).

-Lawn mowing season is here, don't let turf get too long before mowing. Make sure your mower blades are sharp or you'll tear blades of grass, resulting in damaged turf, which invites pests and disease.

## ROSES

-Prune spring-blooming roses **ONLY** after their bloom period is over. Otherwise, deadheading to remove suckers is generally the only pruning needed at this time.

## VEGGIES AND HERBS

-Don't forget that herbs can look amazing in your other garden beds. African basil has particularly stunning blooms and attracts beneficial pollinators. And thyme makes a great creeping groundcover.

-Watch for early blight on tomatoes. Fingerprint-sized yellow blotches will first appear on lower leaves and quickly spread up the plant. Apply copper fungicide in the morning. Keep foliage dry when watering to help reduce the chance of this fungal disease.

-Okra, pumpkins and winter squash can be planted if the weather is consistently warm.