

GARDEN TIPS FOR MAY

Trees and Shrubs

- Prune and feed azaleas immediately after blooming
- Insect Alert: ([EPP-7306](#))
 - * Bagworms on juniper and arborvitae (Late May)
 - * Elm leaf beetles and larvae on elms (Late May)
 - * Mimosa webworms on mimosa and honey locust
 - * Lace bugs on sycamore, pyracantha and azalea
- Soak new transplants and newly planted trees unless rainfall is abundant
- Pine needle disease treatments are needed in mid-May

Turfgrass

- Cool-season lawns can be fertilized again. If you did not fertilize cool-season grasses in March and April, do so now.
- Warm-season lawns may be fertilized again in May. (HLA-6420)
- Seeding of warm-season grasses such as bermudagrass, buffalograss, zoysiagrass and centipedegrass is best performed in mid-May through the end of June. The soil temperatures are warm enough for germination and adequate growing season is present to promote winter hardiness.
- Dollar spot disease of lawns can first become visible in mid-May. Make certain fertilizer applications have been adequate before ever applying a fungicide. (EPP-7658)
- Nutsedge plants become visible during this month. Post-emergent treatments are best applied for the first time this month. Make certain warm-season grasses have completed green-up.
- The second application of pre-emergent annual grass herbicides can be applied in late-May or early June, depending upon timing of first application. Always check label for details.
- Vegetative establishment of warm-season grasses can continue. (HLA-6419)

Flowers

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

- Shake a leaf over white paper to look for spider mites. If the tiny specks begin to crawl, mites are present.

Fruits and Vegetables

- Plant watermelon, cantaloupe, cucumber, eggplant, okra, sweet potatoes, etc.
- Fruit 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 garden and prepare for season. Divide and repot water garden plants.
- Begin feeding fish when water temperatures are over 50°F.