

# May Gardener's Calendar



Note: all watering recommendations are for drip & TTape irrigation systems @ a rate of 1 gal/hour.

## Fertilize:

- Memorial Day is one of three recommended times a year for putting down a sulfur based soil acidifier
- Fertilize established plants such as trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers with slow release that feeds for up to 90 days
- Plant Bermuda lawns from seed when nighttime temps are at least 60°. Sod is okay to plant any time.
- Fertilize lawns with 21-7-14.
- Bermuda lawns should be de-thatched every 2-3 years; this allows better water penetration.
- Treat Pearl Scale in mid-May. This is the only time it's vulnerable. Use a product containing Imidacloprid.

## Fruit:

- Pick early-maturing fruit.
- Cover fruit trees to protect them from birds. Watch for signs of grape skeletonizer on grapes; the adults are very fast, red & black moths & their egg clusters appear on the underside of the leaves. Apply Spinosad to the undersides of the leaves.
- Citrus trees will drop some of their fruit this month, a natural process.
- Fertilize and acidify citrus trees this month. Apply a balanced slow release fertilizer like 15-15-15 now & again in August. Water well after fertilizing.
- Pecan trees need nitrogen, zinc & acidification this month. 15-15-15 & a soil acidifier works well on pecan trees, as well as others. There are also micro nutrient products made specifically for pecan trees.

## Vegetables & Herbs:

- Plant seeds for melons, squash, black-eyed peas, eggplant, okra.
- Plant transplants of tomatoes, peppers and okra.
- Plant basil, chives, sage, oregano and other herbs.
- Mulch around basil, parsley, peppermint to help keep their roots cool over the summer.

## Annual Flowers:

- Remove winter annual flowers that won't survive the heat. Replace with summer annuals.
- Plant transplants of marigold, calendula, hollyhock, vinca, and zinnia.
- Water established annuals twice a week for 2 hours on drip.
- Adjust pH to 6.5 with a Sulphur based soil acidifier. Soil tests are available to check pH. This often saves \$\$ on unnecessary fertilizer.

## Perennials:

- Plant lantana, salvia, verbena, ruellia, etc.
- Deadhead flowering plants.
- Fertilize with a balanced slow release fertilizer like 15-15-15. Water well after fertilizing.

**Roses:**

- Apply 3-4" of mulch this month.
- Fertilize every 2-3 months with Great Big Roses and 15-15-15.
- Deadhead spent blooms all year.

**Shrubs & Trees:**

- Treat aggressively for Agave borers using Imidacloprid.
- Continue to deep water established shrubs and trees 1-2 times per week for 2-3 hours. Water new trees every other day for 2 weeks.
- Prune lightly this month.
- Plant red & yellow bird of paradise, mesquite, palo verde, acacias, palo brea, or desert willow all summer.
- Put tree guards on the trunks of young trees to prevent damage from chewing animals, mowers and weed eaters.

**Maintenance:**

- Increase watering as temperatures climb.
- Spread mulch around heat-sensitive plants.
- Use a pre-emergent herbicide to control weeds, such as Amaze, Concern or Weed Impede