

Bethany's Extras

I love this time of year when mornings start out chilly, but the day gradually warms up—perfect gardening weather. This is the month to make sure all your newly planted shrubs and perennials are well-mulched and watered in. Blazing temperatures aren't far off. May is also a great time to start lawns from seed. Seeded lawns are more cost-effective than sod but require careful soil preparation and dedicated watering over the next several months. Choosing the right grass for your home can save you frustration and disappointment in the future. Alabama Extension's publications *Turfgrass Selection** and *Home Lawn Maintenance*** can be found on our website. Together, these two articles analyze the pros and cons of the six most popular lawn types in analysis. They discuss the proposed use of the lawn (young kids romping, puppies playing fetch, or an emerald lawn admired from afar) and the maintenance and drought tolerance of each turf type. There are several other publications available on the website to help you troubleshoot problems with established lawns as well.

Grab your clippers and gather an armful of flowers and greenery for the next gardening workshop being co-sponsored with Forge Breast Cancer Survivor Center on Tuesday May 17th. The workshop participants, breast cancer survivors and their supporters will be challenged to make an arrangement which reflects their individual style and taste so unusual flowers or greens will be welcomed, as well as traditional spring flowers. Please email me at bethany@aces.edu to let me know what you can share. Bring flowers and greenery to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens by 2pm on Monday May 16th and make sure to mark buckets or containers with your name and telephone number so we can make sure to return them to you after the event.

Happy gardening!

*<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden/turfgrass-selection/>

**<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden/home-lawn-maintenance/>