



MAY FLOWER GARDEN GUIDE

Bulbs

- ◆ Remove faded flowers and allow foliage of spring flowering bulbs to remain in place after blooms fade. Leaves manufacture the food reserves, which are then stored in the bulb for a repeat showing next year.
- ◆ Plant gladioli, dahlias, canna and other summer flowering bulbs through the end of the month.
- ◆ Fertilize spring flowering bulbs before or during bloom and remove flowers as they fade so plants concentrate on building up the bulbs for next year's flower rather than maturing seed.

Annuals

- ◆ Set out tender bedding plants late in the month as the danger of frost passes and the soil warms up.

Perennials

- ◆ Divide plants as needed.
- ◆ Mulch beds.
- ◆ Begin weekly watering during dry periods - about 1 inch per week.
- ◆ Set out hoops or other plant supports to hold up tall, sprawling varieties like yarrow, aster, peachleaf bellflower, peony and baby's breath. Use long stakes to support stems of delphinium and foxglove.
- ◆ Around Memorial Day, shear back mums to promote bushiness.
- ◆ Late this month, start watching for the frothy masses of spittlebug. They can be controlled with most insecticides as long as you penetrate their foamy protective covering.
- ◆ Watch out for four-lined plant bug on the following varieties: lady's mantle, anemone, mums, painted daisy, coreopsis, globe thistle, heliopsis and black-eyed Susan.
- ◆ The following perennials will emerge late (so don't rush out to replace them!): blue mist shrub, hibiscus, fountain grass and leadwort.

Roses

- ◆ Fertilize roses when they begin to grow.
- ◆ Continue spraying regularly to protect roses against insects and diseases.

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