



MAY LANDSCAPE GUIDE

Lawns

- ◆ In late May or early June fertilize established bluegrass lawns with 1 to 1 ½ pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. Applying nitrogen before mid-May may promote excessive leaf at the expense of root development.
- ◆ Reseed thin or bare areas with a quality lawn blend. Water the area one to two days before seeding and allow the top inch of soil to dry out. Place a light layer of straw over the seed. Water two to three times a day until much of the seed has germinated. Remove straw after germination.
- ◆ This is an excellent time for laying sod.
- ◆ Water new or renovated lawns during dry weather to help young grass plants get well established before the heat of midsummer.
- ◆ Mow established lawns regularly so that no one mowing removes more than one-third of the length of the leaf blades. Set your mower to cut no shorter than 2 ½ inches.

Trees, Shrubs and Vines

- ◆ Many different caterpillars can be seen this month. Know which one is attacking. Eastern tent caterpillars have white stripes down their back and are distinguished by silky tents at the crotches of branches. Forest tent caterpillars have a line of white keyhole-shaped spots down their back. Gypsy moth caterpillars have a double row of red and blue dots down their back. Tent caterpillars can be controlled early in the month. Gypsy moth can be controlled during the bloom of lilac or horse chestnut. Cankerworms also feed in shade and ornamental trees. They are thin, green or brown caterpillars that move with a distinct inchworm motion as they feed on tree leaves. They can be serious defoliators. When infestations are severe, the caterpillars drip down from the tree, suspended on fine silk threads.
- ◆ Prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees after they've finished blooming. Remove old, damaged, dead, weak or poorly placed branches and retain the young, vigorous growth to bear next year's flowers
- ◆ Azaleas, lilacs and rhododendrons can be trimmed at this time. Prune within two weeks of bloom to allow next year's buds to develop.
- ◆ Begin control program for scab when susceptible trees have half inch green showing. Spray 2 to 3 times at 7 to 14 day intervals until leaves are fully expanded.
- ◆ Check pine trees and other ornamental pines for pine sawfly larvae. They can be seen around the time the lilacs are blooming. Pine sawfly are caterpillar look-a-likes that are the immature (larval) stage of a nonstinging wasp family. Sawfly larvae often feed in large numbers, and they raise their heads when disturbed.
- ◆ Plant balled and burlapped or container nursery stock, and water thoroughly. Remove all non-biodegradable materials such as plastic cord, wire and plastic burlap from root balls, trunks and stems of trees and shrubs before you plant them. If left on a plant, they can girdle and kill it. Water thoroughly after planting and every seven to ten days during dry weather.