

GARDENING CHECKLIST FOR MAY



May is the time to:

PLANT VEGETABLES - beans, cantaloupe, cucumbers, eggplant, honeydew, okra, southern peas, peppers, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, and watermelon.

PLANT FALL BLOOMING BULBS - Did your garden lack color last fall? Now's the time to plant autumn crocus, resurrection lily, spider lilies, and yellow danford iris to brighten up your fall this year.

PLANT ANNUALS - Add a pop of color around your mailbox, sidewalk, and perennial beds with annuals. Petunias, geraniums, coleus, dahlia, and zinnias are great choices in sun. For shade choose impatiens, begonias, and caladiums.

PLANT CONTAINERS, WINDOW BOXES & HANGING BASKETS - I incorporate a few perennials with my annuals in containers. Raid your perennial beds for coral bells, lamium, purple heart, and trailing ivies. Make sure your containers have a thrill (adds height, generally in the center of round containers or the back of window boxes), fill (the core plants found in the center) and spill (trailing vines to spill over the edge). Pair complimentary colored flowers e.g., blue and yellow or pink and purple, along with your greenery. Margarita sweet potato vine adds a nice lime pop of color as a trailing option.

PRUNE - Spring-flowering trees and shrubs, such as azalea, dogwood, forsythia and lilac, within four weeks after flowering.

PINCH -Pinch back your mums from the center to prevent them from getting leggy by the time they bloom.

DIVIDE - Divide or transplant hardy perennials, such as chrysanthemum, aster, hosta, and spring blooming bulbs.

DIE BACK - Many spring-blooming bulbs like daffodils utilize foliage to replenish each bulb's food supply. Allow the foliage to die back without removing it until at least eight weeks after flowering.

