

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for May

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CUT BACK your daffodils. The foliage should be very dry and crispy now, meaning that plenty of nutrients have gone to next year's blossoms. Time to clean up.

DEADHEAD all spring blooming flowers such as pansies and primroses. Petunias planted amongst your succulents will be especially beautiful in a rock garden.

CLEAN ponds, fountains and bird feeders with non-toxic detergents for a fresh start. Make sure your recirculating pump is working effectively.

ELIMINATE any standing water from gutters, pot saucers or old tires to reduce breeding of mosquitoes.

MOW the top portion of leggy ground covers including Vinca Major and ivy.

ADD dandelions, calendula and lemons to your daily food intake for a boost of vitamins A and C. Colds and flu are still rampant.



Pots of azaleas to be planted in the May garden.

SEED for summer blooming annuals – cosmos, marigolds, sunflowers and zinnias.

COMPOST all of your green trimmings. Add raked leaves as well as eggshells, shredded newspaper, vegetable peels and wood ashes. Turn your compost pile or bin often and keep moist.

FEED azaleas, rhododendrons and camellias with a fertilizer for acid lovers after they have finished blooming. Continue to pour your coffee grinds mixed with water around the plants for an extra boost of energy.

PLANT tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, beets, carrots, peas, and cabbage. Also get summer blooming bulbs including gladiolas, lilies and dahlias into the ground now.

DEADHEAD roses as blooms fade for continuous flowers throughout the year. Make sure to cut a few stems to cheer up your indoor spaces.

PLAN to include more drought tolerant species to your landscape, including succulents.

PICK UP the petals of fallen camellias as the season comes to an end. Leaving the flowers on the ground leads to diseased plants.

GROW South African clivia as a houseplant in indirect sunlight or as a shade garden attraction. Their shiny deep green foliage and bright orange, yellow and white lily-like flowers encourage gazing.

PLANT an Oregon Grape as a deer-proof perennial shrub. The blue berries are prominent in May, and the leaves turn amber in the fall.

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IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

Time to Prune - Proper pruning is essential in developing a tree with a strong structure and desirable form. Trees that receive the appropriate pruning measures while they are young will require little corrective pruning when they mature.

Proper technique is essential. Each cut has the potential to change the growth of the tree. Poor pruning can cause damage that lasts for the life of the tree.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping.

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