

Monthly Gardening Article

Gardens should be flourishing with May flowers, so enjoy some time outside and don't forget to stop and smell the roses. With spring's arrival there's no better time to visit a public garden, take in a garden tour, or visit a new nursery.

It is time to get rid of your winter annuals like pansies, primroses, and snapdragons and plant summer annuals that love the heat. If you always grow marigolds and petunias and have the desire to try something different in your sunny spots, then try ageratum, amaranths, bedding dahlias, celosias, cleomes, cosmos, dianthus, four o' clocks, salvias, sunflowers, and zinnias. Shady areas can be brightened up with begonias, coleus, impatiens, and New Guinea impatiens. Perennials like coneflowers, coreopsis, coral-bells, Gerber daisies, ornamental sweet potatoes, sedums, verbena, and yarrow will put on a great show year after year.

May is a great month to renovate warm season lawns such as Bermuda and Zoysia. Dethatch, fertilize, and water them, and they should come back like new. Mow Bermuda lawns .5-1" and fescue lawn 2-3" tall. Mowing fescue lawns to low will encourage weeds and require more water. Mowing warm season lawns to high will encourage thatch to develop. Be on the look out for brown areas developing, which could show signs of drought, Fusarium blight, sod webworm, or lawn grubs. Treat now for Fusarium blight if you had it last year.

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