

Weather Averages:

Temperature: High 79.7 Low 52.5
Precipitation: 4.9 inches

Lawn & Garden

Fertilize summer flowering plants like Crape Myrtle and Rose of Sharon.

Side dress or fertilize your vegetables 6 to 8 weeks after germination.

Plant gladiola bulbs in May.

Continue setting out summer annuals like begonia, geranium, marigold, petunia, and zinnia.

Set out eggplant, pepper, tomato, and sweet potatoes.

Plant beans, lima beans, cantaloupe, corn, cucumbers, okra, southern peas, pumpkin, squash, and watermelon.

Fertilize warm season grasses like Bermudagrass, centipedegrass, and zoysia this month. Do NOT fertilize tall fescue now.

Start warm season lawns this month.

Mowing heights for your lawn are important. Cut tall fescue at three inches, zoysia, Bermuda, and centipede grass at one inch.

May

Pruning

Prune rhododendron after flowering. Always prune to a whorl of leaves or the next branch. Do not prune after July 4th.

Prune hedges like privet, abelia, euonymus, boxwood, holly, etc., as needed. Always make top more narrow than bottom.

Begin pinching chrysanthemums and continue through mid-July.

Pick off azalea and sasanqua leaf galls as they form.

Do NOT cut back spring bulb foliage until it turns yellow and brown.



Other Chores:

Spray the following landscape shrubs for the following insects: aborvitae (bagworm), azalea (lace bug), boxwood (leaf miner), camellia (tea scale, euonymus (scale), hemlock and juniper (spider mites), pyracantha (lace bug), and hybrid rhododendron (borer).

Spray Iris beds for iris borers.

Spray the following vegetables if insects are observed: cucumber (cucumber beetle); squash (squash borer and aphids); tomato and eggplant (flea beetle); broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower (worms).

Begin corn ear worm control at early silking and continue through late silking stages.

Spray your blueberry plants for blueberry borers in mid-May.

Continue with rose spray program.

Keep spraying your tree fruits and bunch grapes with a fungicide program.

To control poison ivy and honeysuckle, begin spraying this month with a recommended weed killer.

Take softwood cuttings of plants like clematis, chrysanthemum, and geranium in late May if you have a misting system.

Purchase locally grown strawberries.

Move houseplants outside if desired.

If weather has been dry, give favorite plants a good soaking once a week.

"The greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add a useful plant to its culture."

- Thomas Jefferson