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## What TO DO in your garden in May

### Annuals & Perennials

- ❑ Begin planting tender summer annuals now including flowering vinca. Begin fertilizing summer annuals with *Plant-tone* for large summer flowers
- ❑ Pinch back Mums and feed with *Pro-Start* to promote bushy growth.
- ❑ Deadhead early blooming perennials and mulch with *Cottonbur compost* to control weeds.
- ❑ Sow seeds of summer annuals directly in the ground such as sunflowers and zinnias.
- ❑ Complete planting of borders and divide overcrowded perennials. To reduce transplant shock use *Pro-Start Organic* fertilizer or *Ferti-lome Root Stimulator*.
- ❑ Prevent weed germination in your borders and beds by applying *Corn Gluten Weed Preventer* or *Weed Impede Hose'Em*. Do not use these products if you will be sowing any flower seeds.
- ❑ Spray *RoundUp* on actively growing weeds or grass in your beds and borders. Target the weed as *RoundUp* is non-selective.
- ❑ Spray *RoundUp Extended Control* to kill all weeds and keep any weeds from sprouting on patios and driveway.
- ❑ Slugs hide under large leaves, create a slug barrier around your hostas and other tasty perennials, use *Sluggo* or organic *Diatomaceous Earth* regularly.
- ❑ Use *BioNEEM Insecticide and Repellent* for aphids and/or caterpillars on new growth of perennials and annuals.
- ❑ Use *Bayer All-in-One Rose & Flower Care* to control mildew and phlox plant bug on garden phlox.
- ❑ Set up *Monterey Lady Bug Attractant* to lure these beneficial insects to your garden.

### Roses

- ❑ Use a *sun-stick* to measure the amount of sunlight in your planting area to determine whether you have enough light for roses before planting.
- ❑ When planting new roses mix *Cottonbur Compost*, *Worm Castings*, *Soil Perfector* (to help break-down heavy clay soil), *Organic Traditions Bone Meal*, and *Espoma Rose-tone* into your soil.
- ❑ Apply *Bayer All-in-One Rose & Flower Care* every six weeks for insect control, fungus control and fertilizer.

- ❑ For an organic fungus control solution, use *Garden-Ville Potassium Bicarbonate* or *Rose Pharm*.
- ❑ Keep rose beds clear of dropped leaves and petals and dead-head spent blooms regularly to prevent the spread of black-spot.
- ❑ Knock Out Roses are disease resistant so no spraying is needed. Fertilize all roses monthly with *Rose-tone*.
- ❑ Roses are thirsty plants. Each rose needs 5 gallons of water per week to thrive.

### **Vegetables and Herbs**

- ❑ Grow lettuce under *Harvest Guard* rowcover to keep it out of the hot sun and slow bolting to extend harvests into hot weather.
- ❑ Begin planting sweet corn, summer squash and watermelons as cool season crops are harvested. Side dress with *wormcastings* for increased production.
- ❑ Control caterpillars on Broccoli and cabbage plants by handpicking or use *Spinocide Garden Insect Spray*.
- ❑ Keep asparagus harvested for continued production. Use *Monterey Garden Insect Spray* for Asparagus Beetle.
- ❑ Give vegetable plants a boost by feeding them with an organic fertilizer such as *Garden-Ville Sea Tea* or *Fish Emulsion*.
- ❑ Plant dill seeds or plants now to use when making pickles.
- ❑ Fertilize Blueberries and raspberries with *Holly-tone fertilizer* to increase harvest. Remember adequate water is essential and install *soaker hoses*.
- ❑ Strawberries are in full flower and berry production now, keep them well watered, fertilize with *Garden-tone fertilizer*. To prevent slug damage and fungus on the berries put a layer of soil perfecter around and under the plants.
- ❑ Plant all warm season herbs and vegetables now, including basil and tomatoes. Set stakes in to support the tomato plants at the time of planting. See our website for a complete list of the tomato varieties being carried this year.

### **Trees and Shrubs**

- ❑ Use *Bayer Advanced 12 month Tree & Shrub Insect Control* to prevent damage from Japanese Beetles, leaf minor damage on hollies and boxwoods and Lacebug damage to azaleas. Use *Monterey Garden Insect Control* to control Japanese Beetles organically.
- ❑ Use *Monterey Spinosad* garden insect spray for beetles, caterpillars, thrips bagworms, tent caterpillars, webworms and others on ornamental shrubs
- ❑ Consult University Extension Guide G6010 for when to spray fruit trees. Use *Fungus Pharm* to prevent mildew and molds on trees and shrubs.
- ❑ Use *Treegator 14 gallon Irrigation Bags* on newly planted trees to insure proper watering.

- ❑ Spray *Monterey Safe-t-side* on scale infested pines and euonymous now when the crawlers are active.
- ❑ If not done in March, apply *Organic Traditions Garden Acidifier* to blue-blooming hydrangeas and *Magnesium Sulphate* to white hydrangeas.
- ❑ Apples Crabapples and Hawthorns susceptible to rust disease should have a protective spray such as *Fungus Pharm*, applied beginning when these trees bloom.
- ❑ If spring rain has been sparse, begin irrigating, especially plants grown in full sun and those blooming in spring. Use *soaker hoses* to distribute the water evenly without causing soil erosion.
- ❑ Use *Holly-tone* for evergreens or pines, spruce, junipers, dogwoods and *Tree-tone* for deciduous trees.
- ❑ Use *Holly-tone* fertilizer on Azaleas and Rhododendrons after bloom.
- ❑ Forsythia and other spring flowering trees and shrubs (Spirea, Mock Orange, Lilac, Magnolia, Rhododendron, Azalea, etc.) should be pruned immediately after flowering to promote new growth for next year's flowering.

### House Plants

- ❑ Bring Tropical plants outdoors as night temperatures stay above 50°. Start them in a shady location and gradually move to brighter light to prevent sunburn. Fertilize with *Osmocote or Sea-Tea*.
- ❑ Apply *Miracid* to gardenias and citrus plants every 3 to 4 weeks.
- ❑ Use *Indoor Pharm, on ficus, gardenia or citrus plants* if scale or mealy bug is a problem .

### Lawn

- ❑ Zoysia lawns may be fertilized now. Apply *Fertilome Classic Lawn Food* or *Organic Lawn Food*.
- ❑ Apply post-emergent broadleaf weed control, *Weed B'Gon Max*, to kill weeds and crabgrass in your lawn.
- ❑ Water newly laid or seeded lawns. Use *rain gauges to monitor rainfall*. Gardens need about 1" inch of water per week through September.

### Bulbs

- ❑ Plant summer bulbs such as dahlias, cannas, elephant ears and hybrid lilies now.
- ❑ Plant elephant ears in May. Mulch with cottonbur compost and keep them well watered.
- ❑ Spring blooming bulbs can be moved or divided as the foliage dies. Use *Bulb-tone* when replanting

## **Compost**

- ❑ Save kitchen vegetable scraps in *compost carrier* to add green matter to compost pile.
- ❑ As you continue to add leaves and natural debris to your compost pile, be sure to turn your pile and add *Organic Traditions Bio-Excellerator* to aid the “heating up” process.

## **For the Birds and the Bees**

- ❑ Backyard wildlife need three elements to thrive; food, water, and shelter. To provide food, clean and set up bird feeders and keep feeders full to welcome the return of migrating birds to your garden.
- ❑ Fill *Hummingbird Feeders* with *Nectar* as the hummingbirds return to St. Louis from their migration to Central America.
- ❑ Make sure bird baths are cleaned and filled with fresh water regularly.
- ❑ Protect bees by not spraying fruit trees when in bloom.
- ❑ Trap wasps with wasp catchers rather than using dangerous sprays.