



10809 Honeycutt Rd., Raleigh, NC, 27614

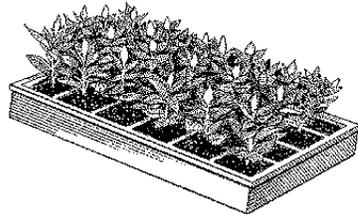
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May Garden Planner

Plant:

New plantings will get a head start with root stimulator solution. Use it to promote earlier and stronger roots, as well as to help reduce transplant shock. It's particularly good to help spring planted plants get a good start on a root system before and during hot summer weather. **Don't forget to keep new plantings well-watered during dry spells this year!**



- ~ When planting trees and shrubs, **make sure that the place where the trunk meets the roots, a.k.a the trunk flare, is not buried or covered** with soil or mulch. Doing so can cause stem rot and possibly kill the plant.
- ~ **In sunny areas, plant summer-blooming annual color** such as geraniums, petunias, marigolds, salvia, annual vinca, pentas, lantana, verbena, & zinnias. Begonias, impatiens, heliotrope, & torenia will brighten shady areas.
- ~ **This is a great time to plant summer fruit and vegetables** such as tomatoes, eggplant, cucumber, peppers, melons, corn, beans, okra and squash. Tomato tip: keep watering even & consistent for better fruit quality.
- ~ **Perennials of all types** are becoming available this month. You'll find all kinds for sunny and shady spots. Durable performers include sages, shasta daisy, coreopsis, lantana, coneflowers, ferns, hellebores, and gaura.

Fertilize:

- ~ **Feed warm-season lawns, such as Zoysia, Bermuda, buffalo grass, and St. Augustine's** with Espoma Organic Lawn Food™. Don't fertilize cool-season grasses now (ie. fescue, bluegrass).
- ~ **Fertilize bulbs after flowering with bulb fertilizer** such as Bulb-tone™. This will help them store food for next spring's bloom.
- ~ **After flowering is a good time to feed azaleas and rhododendrons.** Choose a slow-release granular that is labeled for azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons such as Holly-tone™ and broadcast it evenly around the ground

that is under the edge of the canopy, not right up next to the trunk.

Feed roses regularly with Bayer All-In-One Rose & Flower Care™ which will also help protect against diseases and insects or organic Rose-tone™. Regular feeding will increase bloom and vigor on roses.

~ **Feed summer flowering plants this month.** They'll reward you later with more blooms!

~ **For best harvests, feed your veggies this month** with an organic fertilizer such as Garden-tone™ or Tomato-tone™ organic fertilizers. Neptune's Harvest™ adds kelp and fish fertilizer that make for resilient and robust plants.

~ **Don't fertilize culinary herbs except basil** (lightly) unless they really lack vigor. Otherwise, you get lots of leaves but less of the flavor you're after. A little sidedressing of compost mid-season should give most herbs what they need. Neptune's Harvest™ kelp and fish fertilizer is a good choice for herbs.

~ **Fertilize hanging baskets and mixed annual containers** with Premium Bedding Plant Food™ or Blooming & Rooting™.

~ **Fertilize water lilies, lotus, and other water plants** once a month.

Garden Maintenance:

~ **A 2"-3" layer of mulch protects** plant root systems from damaging heat, conserves water, reduces soil-borne disease problems, and prevents weeds from sprouting. **Keep mulch away from stems and trunks.**

~ **Winter damaged shrubs/vines?** Trim back whatever is dead (brittle, no green under the bark), apply tree & shrub fertilizer such as Plant-tone™, and keep the plants watered during any dry spells especially through summer.

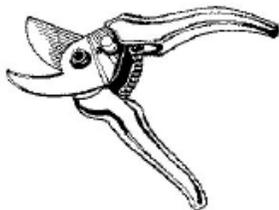
~ **Make sure to regularly water newly planted shrubs and trees** during the first 1-2 years to ensure a good root system. It's much better to water deeply for deep root formation once or twice a week than lightly every day which encourages shallow, easily-damaged roots and stem rot. Soaker hoses or drip systems conserve water while putting it down exactly where you need it. Water early in the day or in the evening. If watering late in the day, avoid getting water on foliage. Wet leaves overnight can translate to increased problems with plant disease.

~ **Are the mower blades on your**



mower sharp? Dull blades decrease the lawn's ability to recover from cuts and increase the incidence of disease. Search YouTube for videos on how to DIY or have them sharpened.

~ **Keep after those weeds before they take over.** For less work, apply pre-emergents to prevent weed seeds from germinating. Post-emergents will control weeds that are already growing in lawns. For eco-friendly products, try Espoma Organic Weed Preventer as a pre-emergent and BurnOut™ and Weed Beater FE™ as post-emergent herbicide spray.



Prune:

~ **Just after they bloom is an ideal time to prune spring-flowering shrubs such as azaleas and forsythia** to control size or correct form.

Snap off faded rhododendron blooms taking care not to damage new buds just behind them. Cut back leggy branches to encourage a more compact plant.

~ **When cutting back faded roses** (and you should because then you get more flowers), prune back to leaves with five or more leaflets that face away from the center of the bush. Exception: the Knock Rose & Drift series will produce lots of flowers without dead-heading.

~ **Now is a good time to lightly shear hedge plants** such as laurel, privet, and holly. Follow up with a fertilizer such as Grower's Special™, Plant-tone™, or Holly-tone™

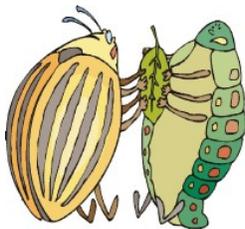
~ **Pinch (foliage off) or trim back chrysanthemums** about once a month until July 15th in order to promote bushy plants and more blooms in fall. **Other plants that respond well to pinching** include basil, snapdragons, tall phlox, Autumn Joy sedum, aster, bee balm, agastache, and spike speedwell (veronica).

~ **Don't cut back bulb foliage** until it has completely withered. Let the bulb finish producing and storing food for next year's show.

~ **To control growth on pines**, cut back new growth "candles" part way or completely.

IPM (Integrated Pest Management):

~ **Roses will require less intervention if they are kept well-watered, fertilized, and mulched with compost.** Make sure not to water foliage, only the base of the plant. For an effective product that prevents insects and disease, as well as feeds the plants, try Bayer All-in-One Rose & Flower Care™. Organic options include Rose-tone fertilizer, and All-Season™ spray oil for insects and black spot disease. **Watch for signs of Rose Rosette disease** which include reddened leaves, excessive thorns, thickened stems, and clustering of small branches. There is currently no cure and



it is mainly spread by insects and infected pruning shears. **Early detection is crucial** as infected plants need to **removed promptly and destroyed** in order to prevent spread of infection.

~ **If you see powdery mildew on crepe myrtles and roses**, treat with Fung-onil™ or the eco-friendly Sere-nade Disease Control™. **Avoid getting water on rose foliage** when watering to prevent fungal diseases. Water early in the day so foliage can dry before nighttime.

~ **Control sucking insects such as aphid, whitefly and lacebug** with applications of light horticultural oil such as All-Season Spray Oil™ or Systemic Insect Control™. Check for lacebugs on pieris (andromeda) and azalea. Symptoms include pale, stippled leaf surfaces as well as undersides with tar-like black specks on them. Lace-bugs are particularly problematic on azaleas planted in sun. Only use oil sprays below 85°F.

~ **Check euonymus and camellia for signs of scale insects.** Symptoms include grayish-brown waxy bumps on mainly on stems and also leaf undersides, shiny spots on leaves, as well as black sooty substance (mold) that grows as a result of the insects. On euonymus leaves, you may also see small white sliver-shaped insects. Spray with All Season Spray Oil™ making sure to coat the undersides.

~ **For snail and slug infestation** try Natria Slug & Snail™ non-toxic slug and snail bait. It's safe around pets and can be used up to day of harvest.

~ **Repel moles and voles** with an all natural repellent from IMustGarden™ Mole & Vole Repellent. The granular form is easy to apply with a spreader.

~ **Now is a great time to treat for Japanese beetles with Milky Spore™.** Milky Spore is a bacteria that attack Japanese beetle grubs living in the soil, and is non-toxic to people and animals. You can easily apply it with a spreader three times a year for two years for 10-15 YEARS of grub control!

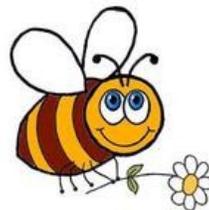
~ **Avoid getting water on rose foliage when watering** to prevent fungal diseases. Water early in the day so foliage can dry before nighttime.

~ **Watch for leaf galls on azaleas and camellias**, a knotty-looking leaf fungus, and pick off any affected leaves.

Coming Events:

~ POLLINATOR PARTY Sat. June 23rd!

Pollinator Plant Sale, PBS's Bryce Lane will talk about pollinator plants. Heaven Scent Honey will be here, freebies for kids, facepainting, Wake Co. Beekeepers, and more!



~ **Earn Blooming Bucks now through June 1st!** You'll receive one Blooming Buck for every \$10 you spend at Homewood during that time. Then, redeem your Bucks for up to 50% off anything in stock (except pine straw) from June 2nd- June 16th!