

# May



## GARDENING CHECKLIST and garden tips

**May is the busiest month for planting in east Idaho. The sun really begins to shine. Don't forget garden gloves, hat, sunscreen and hand tools.**

*Town & Country's plant doctors are available during store hours to answer your gardening questions. For accurate diagnosis, please bring in a sample (preferred) or a picture of the problem.*

### Vegetables

- Cool weather crops can be planted early in the month without protection. This includes root crops, leaf crops, and peas.
- Warm weather crops, including tomatoes, peppers, melons and cucumbers, can be planted early in the month in **Wall 'o Water** plant protectors, or later in the month without.
- Sweet corn can be seeded in mid May, beans in late May or early June.
- Add **Soil Enhancer** or compost as well as **sulfur**, and rototil into soil to prepare seed bed.
- Use **Garden Inoculant** when planting peas and beans for maximum success.
- Remember tomato cages and trellises for vining flowers and vegetable crops.
- Place a **floating row cover** over your crops for quicker growth and to keep insects out.
- Keep weeds at bay with hand weeding, hand cultivating, or spotting with Killzall herbicide.

### Roses

- May is the best month to plant potted roses. Prepare soil with **T&C Soil Enhancer** and water in with **Fertilome Root Stimulator**.
- Bring rose blossoms indoors by cutting the stem on a 45 degree angle right above the first five-leaflet leaf under the flower. Place in a water-filled vase immediately.
- Prune off spent flowers in a similar manner. This will encourage more blossoms.
- Apply **Fertilome Rose Food w/Systemic** every 6 weeks to feed and protect from insects.
- Watch for powdery mildew or black spot on leaves and spray with **Fertilome Systemic Fungicide** at first sign. Make weekly preventive sprays if you've had problems in the past.

### Flowers

- Perennials and hardy annuals such as pansies, petunias, alyssum, and snapdragons can be planted any time now. They will tolerate frost without problem.
- Tender annuals such as marigolds, impatiens, and geraniums can generally be planted safely after Memorial Day. If planting earlier, keep an eye on the weather and be ready to cover if necessary. Ask for our tip sheet listing the frost hardiness of various annuals.
- Direct sow **wildflower seed** as well as annuals such as alyssum, marigolds, and calendula.
- Now is a good time to plant up your porch pots. Feed with **Osmocote** slow-release fertilizer.
- Place plant supports such as grids or cages around tall growing perennials like peonies and delphinium now before they get too tall.
- Mulch beds with **Soil Pep** to control weeds and help retain moisture.
- Fertilize annuals and perennials with **T&C Fruit & Flower Food** or **Save-a-Tree**.

## Lawns

- Adjust sprinklers to water more often as weather warms. Don't water more often than every other day, and probably only twice per week. Early morning is best time, if possible.
- Apply **T&C Premium Lawn Food** (Step 2) in mid to late May as grass begins to lose its dark green color from the Soil Activator you applied in early April.
- Apply **Hi Yield Grub Free Zone** in May to prevent damage from grubs later in the summer.
- Seed new lawns using **Crook's Premium Lawn Seed**. Apply **T&C Seed & Sod Starter** at time of planting. Ask for our free Lawn Planting Guide for complete details.
- Spray lawn weeds with **Fertilome Weed Free Zone** if temperatures are under 80 degrees.

## Trees & Shrubs

- May is a great time to plant potted trees, vines, and shrubs. Use **Fertilome Root Stimulator**.
- Fertilize trees and shrubs with **Save-A-Tree** or **T&C Tree & Shrub Food**.
- Prune Spring flowering shrubs like forsythia and lilac right after they bloom.
- Apply **Fertilome Systemic Insect Drench** or **Acecap Systemic Implants** to prevent insect damage to your trees and shrubs for the entire growing season.
- Spray spruce trees with **Bonide Systemic Insecticide** as the new needles emerge to prevent the brown pine-cone-looking galls from developing on the tips of the branches later on.
- Check for evidence of borers in your aspen, ash, and other trees. Small holes, possibly with leaking sap and/or sawdust are signs of problems. See our plant doctors for solutions.
- Spray evergreen and shade trees with **Horticultural Oil** if you find scale insects on trees.

## Fruit

- Apply **soil sulfur** to berry patches if not done earlier. Feed with **T&C Fruit & Flower Food**.
- Plant potted **raspberries, strawberries, rhubarb, and fruit trees**.
- Hang **Codling Moth traps** in apples to monitor when the best timing for sprays might be.
- Begin spraying apple trees with **Spinosad Organic Spray** in late May. Spray every 10 days through the summer to prevent wormy apples.
- Spray pear and apple trees with **Fertilome Fire Blight Spray** twice during blossom period.

## Birds and Wildlife

- Keep **bird baths** clean and filled with water to attract songbirds.
- Continue to feed birds with black oil sunflower and high quality **wild bird seed**.
- Plant shrubs and flowers to attract, feed, and provide cover for birds and hummingbirds.
- Place **hummingbird feeders** out now to attract these delightful little birds to your yard. Keep filled with nectar all summer. Or plant honeysuckle or trumpet vine to attract them.

## Ponds

- Bacteria such as **Microbe Lift** should be added on a regular basis to keep pond clear.
- Feed fish every evening at the same time to train your fish to come when you feed them.
- Feed water lilies and marginal plants as needed.
- Keep your **screens, filters and skimmers** free of debris to keep water flowing well.

**Always read and follow label directions when using any garden chemical or fertilizer.**

5800 S. Yellowstone Hwy  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402  
(208) 522-5247



1300 E. Oak  
Pocatello, ID 83402  
(208) 232-7985

[www.MyGardenGeek.com](http://www.MyGardenGeek.com)