



# Timely Tips May

## Ornamentals & Lawn

1. Plant summer bulbs such as elephant ears, lilies, caladiums and canna. Fertilize with *Espoma Bulb Tone* to help increase bulb size and produce healthy foliage.
2. Over seeding may be done in your yard if you have not used an herbicide in the last 2 months (check the label on the bag as some herbicides last up to 6 months in the soil).
3. Crape myrtle and butterfly bush may be pruned back once new growth has started – these plants leaf out after warm weather.
4. Plant, plant, plant – start planting warm season annuals as early as the middle of the month.
5. Fertilize annuals bi-weekly with *Jack's Classic Fertilizer* or *Miracle-Gro LiquaFeed*.
6. Watch for sod webworms emerging at the end of the month. The first indication of them is usually birds pecking in the grass. Webworms chew the leaf blade off at the soil level which causes brown patches throughout the lawn. Treat infected areas with an insecticide specifically for webworms.
7. Once spring bulbs (tulips, daffodils, etc.) have flowered, cut off old blooms and allow the foliage to die back to the ground naturally. Allowing the foliage to die back naturally and fertilizing with *Espoma Bulb Tone* will encourage flower production for the following year.

## Fruits and Veggies

1. Transplant seedlings started indoors earlier when night temperature stay about 50F.
2. Remove developing flower stalks from rhubarb plants.
3. Mulch blueberries with pine needles, rotted sawdust or peat moss. Feed monthly with *Espoma Holly Tone* to feed their acid loving habits.
4. Set out tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and sweet potatoes when soils have warmed up – this is usually middle to late May.
5. Shade lettuce and early season veggie crops to prevent bolting.
6. Keep asparagus harvested for continued spear production.

### **Houseplants**

1. Take houseplants outdoors when night temperatures remain above 50F. Many houseplants prefer morning sun and can be gradually moved to a full sun location if necessary for that plant.
2. For houseplants that are outside for the growing season, fertilize one time per week with *Jack's Classic Houseplant Fertilizer* or *Miracle-Gro LiqueFeed*.

### **Birds & Wildlife**

1. Keep hummingbird feeders clean and full.
2. Filling bird feeders throughout the summer and providing clean fresh water in birdbaths will provide birds a safe haven throughout the summer.
3. Spray *Liquid Fence* on tulips and other tasty new plants in your yard to protect from deer damage.

### **Water Gardens**

1. Divide hardy water lilies and other perennial water plant and fertilize with aquatic plant food tabs.