

Alabama
Gardener's
Calendar

May

► Learn—month by month—the necessary gardening activities for lawns and shrubs, annuals and perennials, fruit and nut trees, and bulbs, roots, and tubers. Included is a timeline for activities such as soil testing, planting, pruning, fertilizing, pruning, mulching, indoor plantings—from cauliflower to okra, from camellias to dahlias to heirloom roses.

Fruits and Nuts

- Continue spray program.
- Keep grass from around trees and strawberries.
- Peaches and apples can still be budded.

Shrubs

- Newly planted shrubs need extra care now and in coming weeks.
- Do not spray with horticultural oils when the temperature is above 85 degrees F.

Lawns

- Start new lawns from seed.
- Call the Master Gardener Helpline at (877) 252-4769 to learn more about seasonal fertilizer use and proper mowing. Overfertilizing and overwatering lead to lawn problems.
- Wait until warm-season lawns are fully green before applying any fertilizers.
- Mow often (5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing
- Apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to all warm-season lawn types: bermudagrass, centipedegrass, St. Augustinegrass, and zoysiagrass (or wait until after dethatching).
- Dethatch warm-season lawns if needed. Check thatch layer, as in April. Water and fertilize after dethatching (1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet).

**Roses**

- Spray or dust for insects and diseases.
- Fertilize monthly according to a soil test.
- Plant container-grown plants in flower.
- Prune climbing roses after the first big flush of flowering.

Annuals and Perennials

- Late plantings of bedding plants still have time to produce.
- Watch for insects on day lilies.

Bulbs

- Summer bulbs started in containers may still be planted.
- Do not remove foliage from spring flowering bulbs.
- Do not let seedheads form on tulips and other spring flowering bulbs.



Miscellaneous

- Mulch new shrub plantings if not already done.
- Monitor new landscape plantings of shrubs, trees, and turf. To establish healthy root systems, prevent them from drying out and water deeply.

Vegetable Seeds

- **Whole state:** Continue plantings of all April seeds across the state.
- **Central and North:** Add okra and southern peas to your garden.



Vegetable Transplants

- **Whole state:** Continue plantings of April transplant crops.
- **Central and North:** Plant certified sweet potato slips.

Questions?

Call the Master Gardener Helpline at (877) 252-4769. A Master Gardener Extension volunteer is waiting to answer your call.



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