



MAY Bloomers:



Early May: PERENNIALS: - Rock Cress (*Arabis*) - Basket of Gold (*Aurinia*) - Bergenia - Daffodils - Sweet William (*Dianthus barbatus*) - Leopardbane (*Doronicum*) - Creeping Phlox (*Phlox subulata*) - Lungwort (*Pulmonaria*) - Foam Flower (*Tiarella*) - Tulips - Violet/Pansy (*Viola*)
SHRUBS: - Magnolia (*Magnolia liliflora*) - Daphne - Deutzia - Fothergilla - Sandcherry (*Prunus cistena*) - Flowering Almond (*Prunus glandulosa*) - Beach Plum (*Prunus maritima*) - Aglo & Olga Mezitt Rhododendron - Purple Gem Rhododendron - Burkwood Viburnum - Korean Spice Viburnum (*V.carlesi*) **TREES:** - Shadblow (*Amelanchier*) - Redbud (*Cercis*) - hybrid Dogwood (*Cornus*) - Saucer Magnolia (*M.soulangeana*) - Crabapples (*Malus*) - Thundercloud Plum (*Prunus cerasifera*) - Weeping Cherry (*Prunus subhirtella*) - Ornamental Pear (*Pyrus*)
Mid-May: PERENNIALS: - Columbine (*Aquilegia*) - Sea Thrift (*Armeria*) - Siberian Bugloss (*Brunnera*) - Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria*) - Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra*) - Barrenwort (*Epimedium*) - Spurge (*Euphorbia*) - Sweet Woodruff (*Galium*) - Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum*) - Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium*) - Tulips **SHRUBS:** - evergreen Azaleas - Broom (*Cytisus*) - Enkianthus - Kerria - Snowmound Spirea (*Spirea nipponica*) - Lilacs (*Syringa*) - Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*) - Doublefile Viburnum (*V.plicatum*) **TREES:** - Horsechestnut (*Aesculus*) - Dogwood (*Cornus*)
Late May: PERENNIALS: - Snow in Summer (*Cerastium*) - Cheddar Pinks (*Dianthus gratianopolitanus*) - Cranesbill (*Geranium*) - Candytuft (*Iberis*) - German Iris (*Iris germanica*) - Lewisia - Catmint (*Nepeta*) - Peony (*Paeonia*) - Poppy (*Papaver*) **SHRUBS:** - Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*) - Catawba Rhododendrons - Van Houtte Spirea - Lilacs (*Syringa*) - Weigela - Wisteria **TREES:** - Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) - Hawthorn (*Crataegus*) - Japanese Snowbell (*Styrax*)

Early-MAY Gardening Checklist:



PERENNIAL GARDEN:

- Select flowering perennials with a progression of bloom** from spring to fall.
- Transplant groundcovers** including English Ivy, Myrtle, Pachysandra & Ajuga.
- Stake elongating stalks of Peonies** to prevent "flopping" - use special peony rings. Leave in place until the stalks are cut to the ground in late September.
- Remove spent blossoms from tulips**, daffodils & other bulbs, but let foliage wither & turn yellow before you remove it to replenish the bulb's food supply for next year.
- Apply Rose fertilizer** (Rosetone) now - rich in organics, to promote vigorous growth & beautiful blooms.

ANNUALS & VEGGIES:

- Make **successive plantings of carrots**, beets, radishes, chard & leaf lettuce.
- Since **phosphorous moves very slowly** in the soil, fertilizers with this nutrient are best scratched into the root zone.
- Wash insect-infested herb** plants with a mild soap solution, then rinse with clear water.
- Select early, midseason & late cultivars of **Blueberries for a long picking season**.
- Remember Mom with a flowering plant!**
- Make **first planting of sweet corn** & green beans.
- Plant Dahlias** in sunny, well-drained, fertile soil after the ground is warm.
- Set aside a small **plot near the back door** as a "snack" garden. Enjoy herbs, berries & veggies.

TREES & SHRUBS:

- Hedges of boxwood, privet, barberry & yew can be sheared** or trimmed as often as needed through the summer to keep their shape. Keep the base wider than the top.
- Finger-prune the "candles" of mugho pine**, pinching them back most of the way to force internal growth rather than leggy growth beyond the plant's present height & width.
- Tent caterpillars** have exited their egg clusters & constructed silken tents in the crotches of trees. They won't venture far beyond the tent for the next few weeks, but by late May they will start devouring foliage day & night. If possible, poke a hole in the tent & direct a stream of water into the tent to break it apart & knock it to the ground. Then sprinkle limestone over the wiggling caterpillars to immobilize them, causing them to die in a matter of hours.
- Protect honeybees!** Never apply insecticides to fruit trees in bloom.
- Want privacy? **Plant a hedge of Arborvitae**, Hemlock, White Pine, upright Junipers...

LAWN CARE:

- Grubs** have entered a month-long resting phase (pupation) after which they emerge as flying Japanese beetles.
- Spot treat broadleaf weeds** with an appropriate herbicide if weeds are not widespread throughout your lawn.