



MAY

TO-DO LIST

- Finish pruning forsythia, ribes and chaenomeles, cutting out dead, diseased and damaged wood and reducing shoots to strong buds or leafy side shoots.
- Clean up rhododendrons and azaleas after flowering.
- Pinch the tips of chrysanthemums and asters to promote bushiness.
- Shop for annuals and other summer colour plants at the end of the month and plant them out after the risk of severe frost has passed.
- Transplant half-hardy annual seedlings after the risk of frost has passed.
- Plant tomato seedlings in a warm, dry sunny spot, ideally under an overhang or cloche to protect plants from excessive moisture. Try to make sure the planting spot is not one where you have had problems with tomato blight in the past.
- Replace winter-flowering pansies, wallflowers and pot primulas with annuals and perennials.
- Empty spring bulb containers and refill with summer colour plants.
- Plant out dahlia tubers with a stake to support the mature plant.
- Bring out tender exotics like brugmansia, fuchsia, lantana and tibouchina from the greenhouse.
- Put out hanging baskets. Water daily and feed with half-strength 20-20-20 once a week.
- Plant ornamental grasses, remembering that warm-season varieties like miscanthus and pennisetum will not start to grow vigorously until the soil is warmer.
- Plant Brussels sprouts, bush beans, pole beans, pumpkin, squash and corn.
- Mulch to suppress weeds, reduce evaporation and maintain soil moisture.
- Clean up ponds and water features, and service pump and filters. Make sure water flow is still adequate for waterfalls and fountains.
- Add new aquatic plants to your pond, such as water lilies, water lettuce and water hyacinth.