



# Guilford Gardening Journal

*Timely Tips for Your Central North Carolina Garden*

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## May

### Ornamentals & Houseplants

- Thin direct seeded annuals, and finish planting warm season annuals.
- Do not remove foliage from spring bulbs until it dies back naturally - this helps develop strong bulbs & blooms for next year.
- Houseplants can be moved outside for summer once the weather warms up. Be aware of light intensity which is stronger outside.

### Edibles

- Warm weather vegetables can all be set out after freeze danger is past – May 1 is usually safe.
- If space is limited you can also consider containers or vertical gardening for some of those vining crops such as cucumbers, tomatoes, and beans.
- Keep vegetables watered in order to produce well. They need approximately 1 inch of water per week.
- Mulch to keep down weeds, conserve moisture and keep fungal spores from splashing.
- If fruit set is heavy on apples and peaches now is the time to thin. Peaches, in particular, need to be thinned to 4 to 6 inches apart to produce large, high quality fruit.
- Plant kitchen herbs for summer culinary use.

### Lawns

- The best weed control method when you have only a few weeds is to hand pull. Broadleaf perennial weeds that come back from their root system may be controlled using a post emergent broadleaf herbicide.
- Keep cool season lawns mowed to a height of 3 to 3.5 inches. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to add nutrients back to the soil as they decompose.
- Make sure mower blade is sharp.
- Fertilize warm season grass like Bermuda and Zoysia this month. Do not fertilize cool season grass this time of year.

### Trees & Shrubs

- Prune off azalea & camellia leaf galls as they form
- Remove tree stakes that have been in place more than one growing season.
- Spring blooming shrubs can continue to be pruned once they have flowered, but before July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Miscellaneous

- Poison Ivy is emerging this time of year. The best prevention is to recognize this plant. If you think you have come in contact – wash skin with soap and water as soon as possible. Also remove and wash clothes that may have oils on them.

For further information on these topics or any other gardening questions, please call our InfoLine at 336-641-2404 to speak with a Master Gardener volunteer or send an email to [guilfordmg@gmail.com](mailto:guilfordmg@gmail.com)

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