

MONTHLY TO-DO FOR MAY

May 1, 2026

- With soils now warmer, it's time to plant caladium bulbs, as well as summer blooming annuals like angelonia, moss rose, and vinca.
- Perennials and herbs for sun and shade are available and ideal to plant now to provide food and shelter for hatching beneficial insects and pollinators.
- To get plants acclimated faster, use root stimulator to soak the roots, and add Espoma Bio-tone Starter Plus to all new plantings. Continue to apply root stimulator monthly, and be sure to top off the mulch layer to conserve moisture for the coming hot summer.
- Fertilize your lawn and landscape shrubs for spring, and add compost and slow-release fertilizer to new planting beds.
- Select and plant blooming hydrangeas. Prune and fertilize spring blooming shrubs such as azaleas, roses and vines once they've finished flowering and deadhead spent blooms. Cut daffodil foliage as it yellows and divide or feed other perennial bulbs to prepare for next spring.
- As tomato fruit begins to develop, start feeding plants every two weeks with an organic fertilizer such as Espoma Tomato-tone. If you planted potatoes in February, continue mounding pinestraw and compost against the stems.
- Have in-ground irrigation systems audited, and inspect garden hoses and sprinklers to locate leaks and ensure proper watering and efficient irrigation before the heat arrives.

