



Master Gardener Tips

May

Now is the time to mulch, mulch, mulch and then mulch some more.

We want to help cool the roots of the plants, reduce weeds and conserve water.

Remember not to allow the mulch to get too close to trunks and stems.

Leave at least 2-3 inches around the trunks to keep rodents from nesting too close to the bark and end up girdling the tree. Other pests and diseases can also infect the plant.

If plants are looking a little under the weather, being less green than they should, try spraying a weak mixture of a foliar spray of Epsom Salts and water.

Prune spring flowering shrubs to keep them in shape. These can be azaleas, forsythia, and others.

Deadheading, pinching dead flowers off, will help keep annuals blooming and blooming all summer long.

Resist the desire to cut off the leaves of daffodils, tulips and other spring flowering bulbs.

The bulb needs the leaves to continue producing growth in them.

Some summer flowering shrubs that can do well in our area are: butterfly bush; hardy hibiscus, several kinds; hydrangea; and Weigelia.

Sun loving perennials that do well here are: daylilies, cosmos, salvia, coneflower, Geraniums, cannas, Clematis, sedum, petunias.

Impatiens belong in the shade. Especially in the hot afternoons. They also need plenty of water.

Our last frost date was early April, but what a frost!!! However most shrubs are coming back.

Annuals that have a large water content
May not have made it, though i.e.. Coleus, impatiens.

Water new plantings well, until they are established. For annuals it means 3-4 weeks, but for shrubs and trees means 1-2 years.

For deck and patio container plants be sure to fertilize them every 2 weeks or use a slow release granule fertilizer.

