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Home Gardener's NEWSLETTER

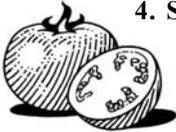
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May Success Tips

- 1. Want more fragrance in your garden?** Plant some citrus, mock orange, gardenias, star jasmine, night-blooming jasmine, angel's trumpet, and certain varieties of roses!
- 2. Add a layer of mulch** around your plants to keep out weeds and keep in moisture. We have several kinds of mulch—ask us which ones are best for your particular needs.
- 3. Plant vegetables**—May is a great time to plant tomatoes, beans, sweet corn, zucchini, melons, pumpkins, peppers, cucumbers, eggplants, and sunflowers.



- 4. Stake** tomatoes, delphiniums, and other plants that need support.
- 5. Mother's Day is May 14!** Surprise her with some of our beautiful flowering plants.

Re-Fertilize & Revitalize!

The availability of nitrogen in our soils has been greatly reduced by the heavy rains. That's because nitrogen in the nitrate form, which is the most useful form to plants, is highly water soluble and easily leaches out of the root zone or can be carried away with rain water run-off.

Nitrogen also becomes available to plants as organic material decomposes, but the prolonged wet conditions we've had greatly slowed the process of decay, so there is less nitrogen available from that source as well, Karen Greenlee. In addition to nitrogen, other major and micro nutrients should also be added to soils to replenish what was used up or lost.

This is your chance to get your plants on the right track by using the proper fertilizer. We highly recommend *Gro-Power Plus* as an excellent fertilizer for most of your plants. For lawns use *Best Turf Supreme*. Some plants have very specific fertilizer and acidity needs, so come in and ask us which specialty fertilizers to use.



Celebrate the Sun with Flowers!

Goodbye rain, hello sunny spring! Nothing lifts our spirits like flowers, and we have tons of beauties! Here are three groups of plants to help you get the most for your effort.

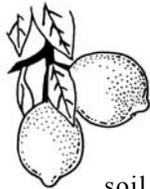


- ★ **Flowers that thrive in summer heat** include marigolds, coreopsis, cleome, lantana, scaevola, portulaca, celosia, gaillardia, gloriosa daisy, salvia, sunflowers, petunias, vinca rosea, pentas, phlox, angelonia, calibrachoa, diascia, and verbena.
- ★ **Flowers that can be stimulated into a second bloom** include bells of Ireland, campanula, candytuft, carnations, cosmos, lobelia, nasturtium, phlox, pinks, scabiosa, snapdragons and statice. Many of the above listed plants re-bloom when cut back by 1/3 after flowering. Also, keeping the plants watered prolongs flowering.
- ★ **Flowers that self-sow** include calendula, California poppy, cosmos, hollyhock, columbine, foxglove, purple coneflower, gaura, English wallflower, bachelor buttons, nicotiana, and Chinese forget-me-nots.

Citrus are Here!

Delicious citrus are in stock now—some already with fruit! If you have limited space, plant citrus in large containers. To help them thrive, follow these tips:

When planting select a pot with numerous drainage holes in the bottom and use our potting soil. Plant high (a little above the soil level with upper roots visible above the soil), and be sure the graft union is above the soil line.



Newly planted citrus need more frequent watering until they are established. In well-drained containers, water twice a week during normal summer weather and more often during hot spells. After they are established, water weekly in normal weather. Excessive fruit and leaf drop a few days after a heavy watering may indicate the soil became too dry before it was watered. Never let the soil dry completely.

Unlike fruit trees, citrus require little pruning. Just cut back any erratic branches. Do remove suckers growing below the graft—they take energy away from the top growth.

Citrus are heavy feeders. Fertilize regularly with our *Kellogg's Citrus & Fruit Tree Fertilizer*, which also contains important micronutrients at the right pH that citrus needs to prevent the leaves from turning yellow.

WIN! WIN! WIN!

Read our newsletter carefully. If you see your name printed in the text, come in and claim your prize—a \$20.00 gift certificate! Must be claimed by May 31.



Plant for Cut Flowers

Fresh flower bouquets add an elegant touch to your home. Plant lots of annuals and perennials now—some to enjoy inside in attractive vases, and others outdoors in your garden. Here are some cut flower selection tips.

Ensure a nonstop, varied harvest by planting both annuals and perennials. Add even more variety with flowering herbs like oregano and basil. You can also include flowers that some people consider weeds, such as Queen Anne's lace. Foliage plants will provide additional texture and color to both the flower bed and indoor bouquets. Your flower arrangements need a focal point, so be sure to plant some bright showy flowers like gerbera daisies and sunflowers to draw the eye.

Planting/care tips: Group the plants with similar requirements for sun and water. Water the soil, not the flowers to reduce mildew and other diseases. Keep weeds down—mulching is easy—so they don't use up all the nutrients and moisture in the soil.

Spring Fruit Squares



- 1 pkg (18oz) refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- 1 pkg (8oz) soft cream cheese
- 1/3 cup sugar

1/4 tsp vanilla

Assorted fruits such as kiwi, strawberries, raspberries, oranges, etc.

1/4 cup apricot preserves

2 Tbsp water



Cut dough into 1/8" slices and arrange (slightly overlapping) on a lightly greased 14x10-inch baking sheet. Press lightly to form a crust. Bake 12 minutes at 375° Cool completely. Meanwhile in a medium bowl, blend together cream cheese, sugar and vanilla. Spread onto cooled cookie crust, then arrange fruit on top. In a small bowl, combine preserves and water, then brush over fruit. Refrigerate till chilled, then cut into squares and serve.

*Our G*orgeous Fl*owers
Bring You a
Gl*orious Spring!*

Plants Prevent Soil Erosion

This spring's heavier-than-normal rains have caused erosion in both steep and gradual slopes. Three steps toward erosion control are 1) divert the water away from the slope, 2) protect the soil with mulch, and 3) plant the area.



Keep in mind that unless you put in desirable plants, undesirable weeds, such as thistles, will take over the area. Also, pre-emergent weed preventers can't be used on steep slopes because they wash down and concentrate at the bottom.

Permanent, low-growing ground covers will beautify your yard while helping to control erosion. Here are some factors to consider before you come in to select your ground covers from our large selection.

• *Soil type and degree of slope.* For instance, if the slope is very steep or rocky you will want plants that require minimum maintenance.

• *Is there an irrigation system?* If so, be sure to set it at a low rate of water use to avoid further erosion. (Have it turn off for 15 minutes, then on again, if there is runoff but the soil underneath is still dry.)

• *Speed of plant growth.* If serious erosion is likely, choose a fast-growing groundcover. Also, space the plants closer together to get quicker coverage.

• *The area's microclimate.* Is the slope sunny and exposed or shaded and facing north? Also, does the area get a lot of wind—wind, too, can cause erosion.

Note: Groundcovers such as manzanitas and junipers need good drainage. Most slopes are perfect for these types of plants.



Homemade After-Shave for Father's Day

- 1/2 cup fresh rosemary or lemon balm
- 1/4 cup fresh thyme
- 1 cracked nutmeg

- 1 cinnamon stick
- Several drops of musk oil
- 4 tsp glycerin
- 1 cup denatured alcohol

Combine all ingredients except glycerin and musk oil. Let stand for several weeks. Strain, then add glycerin and musk oil. Pour into attractive bottles, label, seal, and give to Dad on his day, June 18th.

Stake Tall-Growing Flowers

Our rainy, reduced-sun spring may have left many plants, especially perennials, stretching for the sky and growing extra long stems. It's difficult to properly stake a mature plant without causing damage, but there is still time to stake most plants so they stand tall and show off their beautiful blooms.



English gardeners construct "pea bushes" to support sprawling, multiple-stemmed plants. These "bushes" are made from dried, twiggy branches that are stuck securely into the soil circling the plant and leaning just a little inward. The twigs should be about six inches shorter than the plant's mature height. As the plant grows, it will almost completely cover the support.

Plants with large flowers on a single stem, such as dahlias, foxglove, larkspur, and delphinium, need a single stake. Some single metal stakes are made with an almost-closed circle at the top—an opening for the stem to slip into, eliminating the need for tying. You can use other materials, including bamboo canes, wooden stakes. Using our green stretch tie material (never wire that can damage the stem), wrap the string around the stake using a figure eight between the stake and the stem. Tie a knot and cut off excess tape.