

Basic Gardening Tips



May

- ❖ Deadhead spent flower heads on spring- blooming bulbs to direct their energy back to their roots so they can build vigor for next year. Also deadhead fading flowers on other plants.
- ❖ Continue to divide most perennials as long as they're not spring bloomers and if the foliage isn't more than 5 or 6 inches high. Divide them if they are getting crowded (reduced blooms, a dead spot in the middle) or you simply want more plants.
- ❖ Divide chrysanthemums after new foliage appears. Discard the center, replant small divisions. Pinch back three times before the 4th of July.
- ❖ Thin perennial phlox to improve air circulation and prevent mildew.
- ❖ Clematis likes its feet cool and its head in the sun. Plant impatiens to shade its roots.
- ❖ To discourage cats from your garden, scatter chopped orange peel.
- ❖ Fertilize peonies with 5-10-5 when shoots are 12 inches tall. Peonies do not like manure.
- ❖ Plant leafy greens in your vegetable garden.
- ❖ Move houseplants outdoors gradually as the weather warms.
- ❖ About the third week in May, after all danger of frost is gone, plant your annuals.
- ❖ Weed now, before the weeds go to seed.
- ❖ Plant dahlias.
- ❖ Check yourself for ticks.