

Plant Care

- Divide summer and fall-blooming perennials.
- Plant summer-blooming bulbs and tubers, such as crinums, cannas, daylilies, montbretia, hymenocallis, and lilies.
- Control weeds and refresh mulch in beds to retain moisture, moderate temperatures, and prevent weeds.
- After the danger of frost, set out tomato, pepper, and eggplant transplants and seed summer vegetables such as corn, beans, cucumbers, and squash. Rotate the planting position of the vegetable species from previous seasons to decrease disease likelihood.
- Begin planting summer bedding plants and perennial salvias after last frost (do not plant periwinkles until after Memorial Day).
- Allow spring and fall bulb foliage to die naturally in order to feed the bulb for next year. Don't cut off till after Mother's Day or yellow.
- Cut back frozen perennials, tropicals, and any freeze damage on shrubs.

Fertilize

- Apply 3:1:2 lawn fertilizer (15-5-10, 18-6-12 etc.) to annual bedding plants and vegetables.
- Do not fertilize lawns until mid-April when nights are warm and you've mowed the grass (not the weeds) several times.

Pests

- Treat pests as they arise. Consider using proven organic or least toxic remedies for the health of your family and our earth, especially in the vegetable garden. Remember insects can be cured but diseases can only be prevented.
- Check crapemyrtles for bark scale and treat with a systemic insecticide when they first leaf out, but no later so as not to kill bees and pollinators.

Odds and Ends

- Canes of climbers should be secured.
- Water gardens should be drained, cleaned, and replanted as needed.
- Butterfly bushes (buddleia) should be cut back by $\frac{3}{4}$.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide ASAP for crabgrass, grassburs, and other annual summer weeds if they haven't already germinated.
- Carefully apply broadleaf herbicide to weeds in lawn (weed and feed fertilizers are not very effective and not recommended).