

Celebrate Mothers in May!



May 2017 Garden Planner

PLANT:



- Be **water-wise** in your spring plantings. A couple of wet winters are not enough to change the fact that we have a Mediterranean climate with a cycle of drought years. Looking for attractive water-wise garden plants? Come check out our CA native plant selection and the adjacent Aussie and Mediterranean plants. We can help you grow a beautiful garden and stay water-wise.
- Plant a **Water Garden** for your own backyard oasis. Even a container water garden brings peace and serenity to your outdoor retreat. Water gardens use relatively little water and encourage visits from birds, bees, and dragonflies.,
- Encourage **native** and **honey bees** to visit your garden to help with pollination. Plant flowers that bees like. Consult our *Water-Wise Plants For Pollinators* guide for suitable plants.
- Time to plant **summer veggies**, including tomatoes, squash, peppers, beans, eggplants, corn, cucumbers, and assorted herbs. Check out our seed selection as well as all our starter plants. We offer many organically grown choices.
- Don't have a garden plot? Many vegetables can be grown in **containers**, including tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash and salad greens. Some varieties are naturally more

compact and suitable for containers. Check seed and plant labels or ask a Nursery Pro for suggestions. **Smart Pots** and raised bed kits make for instant gardens. Just fill with **G & B Raised Bed Potting Mix** and you are ready to grow!

- Grow vertical! Plant a colorful wall with **flowering vines**. Come see our selection of plants and trellises. Don't be afraid to put shrubs, and even trees, on a trellis (espalier) for vertical green. Fruit and vegetables can be trellised for food and beauty. Make the most of the space you have! One fun family project is a **Green Bean Teepee** (a guide is on our website).

PRUNE:

- Prune **Lilacs, Camellias** and other early-spring blooming shrubs when they finish blooming. For Lilacs only, remove some of the older stems to the ground to keep the plant vigorous and producing new growth.
- Keep **old, faded flowers** removed (deadheaded) from your roses and other continuous bloomers to promote new flower formation. Take care deadheading rhododendrons not to damage the new growth below the dried flowers.
- Begin **summer pruning** your fruit trees (to control height) while thinning fruit. Consult our **FREE Backyard Orchard Culture Guide** for summer pruning instructions. Avoid ladders and keep your fruit where you can pick it! Your fruit should not exceed your grasp!

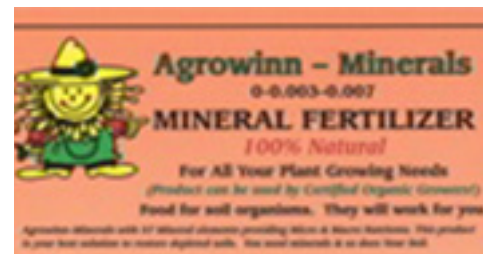


- **Thin small fruit**, like apricots, to 4" apart or 2 per cluster. Larger fruit, like peaches, should be 6" apart. This reduces the weight on branches to prevent breakage, improves the quality of your fruit, and increases the size of fruit.

- Remove any **suckers** (growth that is extremely rapid or coming from below the graft union) on your roses, citrus, fruit and ornamental trees.
- To keep woody **perennial herbs** producing fresh growth, snip off the tips regularly once the plants are established. Remove woody branches to allow fresh new growth.
- Do not prune **Oaks** in May or June when they are susceptible to infection from Oak Wilt.

FERTILIZE:

- All the rain has been wonderful but it has **leached nutrients** from the soil and made it more alkaline. Time to fertilize, re-mineralize and acidify your soil to help it recharge.
- If you haven't yet done so, **fertilize** your garden. We recommend using all organic **G & B Fertilizers** which contain beneficial microbes to bring your washed-out soil back to life. Plus, organic fertilizers release their nutrients slowly and steadily so plants develop sturdy growth, rather than thirsty, fast growth.



- **Re-mineralize** your soil with **Agrowinn Minerals** to give your garden the missing minerals plants need to thrive. This is especially important for areas where tomatoes are planted as they deplete the soil.



• If your plant's leaves are looking yellowish with green veins, add ***Espoma Organic Soil Acidifier*** in the spring and again in the fall to lower the pH of your soil. Hydrangeas, Citrus, and Azaleas are especially susceptible. You can supplement this with a foliar spray of ***Maxsea Acid Formula*** for a speedier response.

• **Rose care** in May includes ***Alfalfa Meal*** and ***G & B Rose & Flower Fertilizer***. Roses need food to produce bountiful blossoms.

• Give **acid-loving** Azaleas, Camellias, Rhododendrons, Japanese Maples, and Dogwoods ***Espoma Soil Acidifier*** along with ***G & B Rhododendron, Azalea & Camellia Fertilizer***.

PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE:

• This looks to be a bad year for **West Nile Virus and mosquitoes**.

To prevent the hungry pests from multiplying, use ***Mosquito Bits*** in birdbaths and any other standing water. The bits contain a bacteria harmless to birds and bees (and us), but death to mosquito larvae.

• Remove **weeds** as soon as you see them. **They are water thieves!** Worse, if they are allowed to flower, and go to seed, they will spread themselves all over the place. When planting new areas or after cleaning out weeds, use ***Preen*** to keep more weed from coming up by seed.

• Invest in a ***Bug Blaster*** to prevent or control spring insect invasions without using any chemicals. It uses water from your hose to remove bugs and their debris. Regular use of a ***Bug Blaster*** inhibits spider mites, whiteflies, mealybugs and scale.

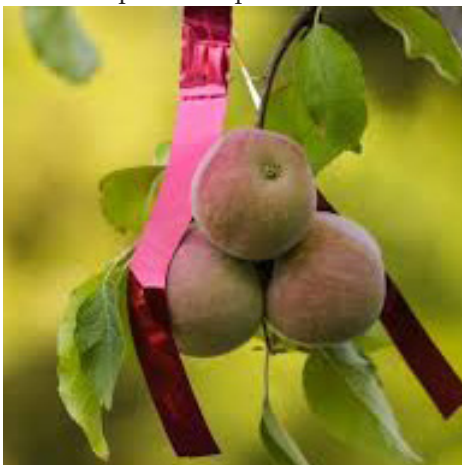
• Continue to spray apples and pears with ***Monterey Garden Insect Spray*** at dusk to prevent wormy fruit from **codling moths**.

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It is OMRI approved for organic growers. We recommend spraying at dusk to avoid spraying bees.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

• **Mulch everything** in the garden. Japanese Maples and Avocados will especially appreciate it! Mulch maintains soil moisture, keeps roots cool and helps prevent weed seeds from coming up. Keep an area of 4" to 6" clear of mulch around the trunk of plants to prevent crown rot.



• Protect your **fruit crop** from the birds with ***Birdscare Flash Tape***. It must be installed on the tree before fruit begins to ripen. When the breeze moves it, the tape looks like fire and frightens birds away.

• If you see heavy fruit production on your fruit trees, **prevent broken limbs** with ***Prop a Crop*** branch supports. This clever device has a pointed tip to drive into the soil and a U-shaped support for the branch.

• Set your **mower height** a little higher than usual to keep soil shaded and cooler. Try 3" for a bluegrass/ryegrass blend or 2 1/2" for tall fescue. Mow when the grass is only 1/3 taller than you want it. If someone else mows, ask them to clean their mower blades to prevent weed seeds from other yards.

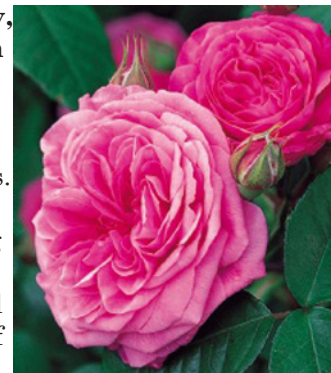
• We recommend watering your **lawn** no more than twice a week. See our ***Lawn Watering Guide*** for guidelines on how long to water. Save water and maintain a healthier lawn by **deep** watering less frequently.

• Control **Bermuda Grass** in your lawn by spraying ***Monterey Gar-***

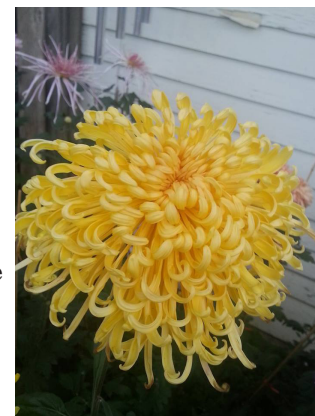
den Turflon Ester as directed. It will take several applications, but Bermuda grass can be conquered!

COMING EVENTS:

• **Sunday, May 14th is Mother's Day!** Say it with roses. All roses (including English roses) will be 20% off 5/13 and 5/14. Spend some time with mom and stroll through our gardens together.



• **Saturday and Sunday, June 3rd and 4th: Chrysanthemum Starter Plant Sale** from 10 AM to 2 PM both days. Purchase starts



for florist-type mums started from society members' own collections. Society members will be present and happy to answer all your questions.



• **Sat., June 10th 10 AM to 2 PM: Fuchsia Show and Sale.** Come see some beautiful Fuchsia blossoms and purchase starter plants to benefit the Fuchsia Society. Learn how to grow your own.