

Wegman's Nursery May Garden Tips

Summer annuals are in full swing! Plant 1) Marigolds, 2) Alyssum, 3) Snapdragons, 4) Petunias, 5) Lobelia, 6) Vinca rosea, 7) Mimulus, 8) Zinnias, 9) bedding Dahlias, 10) Nicotiana, 11) Bachelor Buttons, 12) Ranunculus, 13) Cosmos, and 14) Ageratum in full sun. For the shade, try 15) New Guinea Impatiens, 16) Fibrous Begonias, and 17) Coleus. Some full sun annuals, such as 2) Alyssum and 5) Lobelia, will also perform decently with only few hours of sun. This year, there are 8) dwarf Zinnias only 5 inches tall! For a real lively pot, fill it with half a dozen of our new double mix 4) Petunias.



ANNUALS

To thwart slugs and snails, apply **Monterey Sluggo** or **Deadline** after planting.

In dry weather single ingredient snail and slug baits (**Corry's Meta**, etc.) which contain only metaldehyde are only 11% efficient. Be sure that snail and slug baits contain both metaldehyde and carbaryl. **Deadline** contains both of these ingredients. **Monterey Sluggo**, which is pet-safe, contains only iron phosphate and is also effective under wet conditions. Use **Monterey Sluggo** if children or pets will be in the garden.

In that bare spot where there might have been bulbs last Spring, make a mass planting of annuals. Use mixed colors of 13) Cosmos for the background with mixed color (or all white) Vinca rosea for the foreground. Don't skimp, use cell packs and space plants 4 to 6 inches apart. If the ground is hard in this bulb area, cover it with about one inch of **Master Nursery Gold Rush** or similar and work into the soil for another inch or two. Do not water the annuals so deeply that it rots the bulbs.

Now is the time to sow seeds for 13) Cosmos, 9) Zinnias, 1) Marigolds, and 18) Sunflowers, directly into the garden. Seeds should sprout in 7 to 10 days. If the garden soil is hard, work in an inch or two of **Master Nursery Gold Rush** before sowing the seeds.

If something is eating your seedlings and young plants right down to the ground (or almost) and you don't see snail and slug slime tracks, the culprits are probably White or Golden-crowned Sparrows. These little fellows hide out in the shrubbery and when you turn your back, they dash out and nibble the tops off the tender young shoots. Cover and peg down **bird netting** over the plants until they are 9 to 12 inches tall when the birds will leave them alone.

Monterey Sluggo Plus is a combination of **Sluggo** and **Spinosad** both of which we strongly endorse. It is approved for organic gardening for snails, slugs, chewing insects and flea larva.

BULBS



If you missed planting 1) Dahlias, 2) Crocosmia, 3) Watsonia, 4) Calla Lilies, or 5) Cannas by bulb, you will still have the opportunity to plant these bulbous perennials in the next few months. Watch for assortments of wildly-colored Dahlias, from the dwarf to the dinner plate sized varieties, in 1-to 2-gallon sized containers. Cannas from our growers offer unusual foliage and flower colors and shapes, adding instant texture and lushness to the garden. Check out Crocosmia as well, an often overlooked but colorful Summer bloomer, great for naturalizing and for cutting.

After they have finished blooming, deadhead and feed 7) Daffodils, 8) Dutch Iris and other long-lived perennial bulbs, with **Master Nursery Bulb Food**. Fertilizing at this time is crucial, as the leaves soak up the sun and store food in the bulb, all for next year's blooms. Also, be sure to remove spent blooms so the plant's energies go into the bulb and not useless seeds. Do not cut, braid or tie bulb foliage. Leave it alone until it turns brown; then pull it out.

The key to strong and sturdy Dahlias is planting the tubers in 12 inch deep holes and covering them with only 6 inches of soil. Let them grow; then gradually cover them with soil until the hole is filled. Planted this way, Dahlias will develop strong and sturdy flower stalks. To get more blooms, pinch tips back when they are 12 inches tall. All Dahlias should be given a tablespoon of **Master Nursery Bulb Food** at the time of planting and again six weeks later. Dinner plate and Cactus Dahlias should be staked at the time of planting.

When planting 9) Tuberous Begonias; remember to leave about one-quarter inch of the "bulb" exposed to prevent rot.

Apply **Master Nursery Bulb Food** (not bone meal) when perennial bulbs break ground and again when they finish blooming.

FRUITS

We still have a large selection of fruit trees. We are also able to special order many varieties, so if you don't see what you want, we may be able to get it for you. Please ask.

*It is too late for oil, copper or sulfur sprays (i.e. dormant sprays) on your deciduous fruit trees. Some Apple trees may show mildew. If so, spray with **Safer Garden Fungicide** or a mixture of 1 tbs. of **Monterey Liqui-Cop**, plus 3 tbs. of **Master Nursery Pest Fighter** in a gallon of water.*

To control worms in your Apples and Pears, spray with **Sevin** when all flower petals have fallen and again 4 weeks later. **Sevin** may cause fruit thinning (which is a good thing). Because of our unusual weather, your Apple and Pear trees should have dropped all their flowers by now.

Some folks are reporting peach leaf curl on their Peach trees despite the three necessary dormant sprays in November, December and January. It appears that the irregular winter rains washed off the spray. Research, at UC Davis, states that there is no control once symptoms appear. As the infected leaves fall, they should be collected and disposed of – *not composted*. New leaves will replace the fallen ones.



Brown rot and bacterial canker of Apricots, Peaches, Nectarines, and Plums manifest as dieback of or oozing from short, fruiting spurs or branch tips, and a decrease in or absence of fruit production. Often, there will be a good bloom which turns brown and sticks to the branches. As the disease progresses, whole branches may die. While it is too late to spray for the disease this year, next year apply two additional **copper** or **Bonide Fung-onil** sprays at pink bud and full bloom. When pruning this summer or next winter, you should also remove dead or oozing wood or wood with any visible cankers.



If your fruit trees show flowers or leaves, it is too late for dormant sprays. The past year or two have been particularly bad ones for brown rot and blossom blight on Apricots, Peaches, Cherries and Plums. Early symptoms are when the flowers turn brown, shrivel up and fail to produce much or any fruit. Cankers appear later. The most effective treatment for brown rot/blossom blight is to prune and remove all diseased parts. In the dormant season spray with **Monterey Horticultural Oil** and **Monterey Liqui-Cop** may help to control the disease.

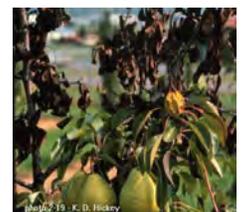
Bacterial cankers will ooze sour smelling gum in the Fall and Winter. Some leaf and flower buds along with small branches may die as the gum ooze spreads and forms new cankers. There is no effective spray, but the winter dormant spray may help. Otherwise remove infected wood and flowers.

Several of our gardener friends have come in with shriveled Apple spurs surrounded by blackened leaves. This is probably caused by bacterial blast. Cut off the infected twigs and spray as you would for brown rot, above. When the symptoms are limited to the fruit spurs, this is not fire blight (see below).



Watch for aphids on Plums and Cherries, which disfigure leaves by causing them to curl. Spray with **Monterey Take Down Garden Spray**, **Malathion** or **insecticidal soap** when the leaves are three-quarter to one inch long. You may also note black and orange beetles one-half inch long once leaves have opened. These are soldier beetles, which are natural predators of aphids. If you note the presence of soldier beetles, you may opt to let them take care of your aphids, as the damage to leaves is already done.

Fire blight (pear blight) appears as blackened leaves at the twig tips which bend down like a shepherd's crook and usually affects Pears, Pyracantha and Apples. The disease often progresses to infect the entire branch. Next year, a preventive spray of **Monterey Liqui-Cop** (1 tbs. per gallon of water) will be helpful. For Apples, apply when buds are at the silvery tip stage; for Pears, apply when in bloom. If the disease shows in the leaves, cut off the branch, 9 to 12 inches below the diseased portion.



Spray Apple and Pear trees for woolly apple aphid, which appears as a white cottony substance, usually in crevices, pruning cuts and on the roots next to the trunk. Use **Malathion**, **Sevin** or **Monterey Take Down Garden Spray**. Wait until the tree has finished blooming. Your **Sevin** spray will usually take care of this problem.

Wait to thin fruit, such as Pears, Apples, Peaches, and Nectarines until after their "June drop," when trees undergo a natural self-thinning period.

Paint deciduous fruit tree trunks with a white, water-based latex paint, cut 50% with water, to prevent sunscald. This is especially important for young trees and trees planted in blazing hot locations.

Scab of Apple and Pear appears as black or brown spots on the leaves and black or brown depressions on fruit. Scab is a fungus and generally begins to show in April and May. If scab is present on Apples this season, spray Apple trees the following dormant season at 2-week intervals beginning at the "green-tip" stage (when leaf buds begin to break) until flowers open. Use **Bonide Fung-onil** if scab is present on Pears this season, spray next dormant season with **Bonide Fung-onil** at the "green tip" stage and again at early bloom. **Monterey Liqui-Cop** is also listed as a control for Apple scab. Apply post-harvest before fall rains.



To control powdery mildew on grapes, spray every two weeks after new growth is 12 inches long with **Safer Garden Fungicide** (sulfur). Avoid overhead water and be judicious with fertilizer so that excess foliage isn't generated. Do not spray when temperatures exceed 85 degrees or within one month of oil spray.

If fruit trees seem chlorotic (yellow leaves with green veins), foliar feed with **Master Nursery Liquid Gold** at two week intervals until symptoms disappear and then treat the soil with iron sulfate now and about Labor Day.



If you haven't had a chance to prune your fruit trees, it's still safe to prune. You can also wait to prune after harvest. If you're unsure of which wood will fruit, trees in flower will have the fruit and should not be trimmed.

Select and plant citrus now. Check our selection!

Citrus should be pruned to remove dead wood, crossing branches, long suckers and water sprouts.



Check for scale on citrus, a sucking insect that usually clusters along fruit stems, new growth and the undersides of leaves; if found, U.C. Extension recommends spraying with a mixture of **Monterey Horticultural Oil** and **Malathion**. Spray twice at two-week intervals. Never spray oil more than four times during the growing season and never if the temperature exceeds 85 degrees. Ants running up and down the trunk often indicate the presence of scale, so look carefully, as more than one kind of scale may be present. Check also for snail damage in citrus trees.



The citrus leafminer is a new pest and feeds inside Citrus leaves and produces a tunnel filled with dark fecal material. The leaf will curl and shrivel. Please see our **Citrus Care Guide** for recommended controls.

Fertilize citrus in March, May, July, and September with **Master Nursery Citrus Food**.

If Citrus trees and shrubs are planted next to the house foundation, they may have yellow (chlorotic) leaves. The concrete foundation produces an alkaline environment which is harmful to citrus. Correct this adverse soil with **iron sulfate**.

Deciduous fruit trees and vines should be fertilized around Memorial Day and Labor Day with **Master Nursery Fruit Tree & Vine Food** or a month earlier with an organic fertilizer.

GROUNDCOVERS



For the bold and fearless gardener 1) Knotweed (*Persicaria capitata*, *Polygonum capitata*) is a possible groundcover for confined space. It is evergreen, 3" to 6" tall, has round, pink flower heads which bloom almost all year round. Needs little or no irrigation, grows in full to partial sun but will become invasive in the regular garden.

Now through the end of May is the best time to plant groundcovers, as they become easily established before continuous hot weather sets in. 2) Erigeron, 3) Ceanothus and 4) Manzanita are excellent groundcovers for hot, dry locations (though they do need water while becoming established).

Mow low-growing groundcovers such as 5) Ivy, 6) Periwinkle (aka Vinca Major) and 7) Peruvian Verbena if you haven't already done so.

Fertilize groundcovers lightly with **Master Nursery Formula 49** twice a year, on Memorial Day and Labor Day.

To ward off slugs and snails, bait with **Monterey Sluggo** (*safe for pets and people*) or **Deadline**.

Planting 8) Labrador Violets or Sweet Violets as a ground cover, under trees in light shade, will make for a delightful mix of vegetation.

LAWNS



To Control Lawn Grubs, apply **Bayer Advanced Season Long Grub Control** or **beneficial nematodes** in May. (Note: If you are using herbicides to control weeds in your lawn, allow 2 weeks before and after nematode applications to prevent killing them.) Controlling lawn grubs now will prevent skunks and raccoons from tearing up your lawn in the late summer and fall. **Beneficial nematodes** (see our **Care Guide**) are microscopic organisms which consume various destructive soil-dwelling insects, such as lawn grubs. They do not harm earthworms and are safe around pets and people, but they can be harmed by herbicides and insecticides.

Lawns should be aerated and dethatched as soon as they lose any sogginess from our rainy season. Aeration can be done manually or by machine, but must remove a core of earth to help water penetrate the soil. This core should then be removed from the lawn. Do not use spikes to aerate, as they simply push aside soil and roots and compact the adjacent soil. Dethatching can also be done manually or by machine. When completed, the lawn should be mowed and any residue removed. While we generally recommend leaving grass clippings on the lawn, after dethatching, all clippings and thatch should be removed.

Spread seed or lay sod through May. Sod orders placed with Wegman's usually take 2-3 days for delivery. Call us for details! Seeding and sodding both require the same amount of soil preparation.

Feed lawns with **Master Nursery's Master Green Lawn Food** or **Master Nursery's Master Green Weed & Feed**. For organic products try **Concern Weed Prevention Plus**. If you have Fall and Winter feed left over, it's okay to use.

If you have had problems with Bermuda grass in your lawn, apply **Monterey Turflon® Ester**, which also controls annual and perennial broadleaf weeds in established lawns. For crabgrass and some other weed grasses, as well as a host of other tenacious broadleaf weeds, use **Crab-E-Rad™ Plus**.

For Oxalis (the one that looks like Clover) and Broadleaf weeds, use **Monterey Turflon® Ester**, a liquid which can be sprayed over entire lawns. Because oxalis is so tenacious, two applications may be needed. **Monterey Turflon® Ester** will kill the Oxalis and weeds but not the grass.

Check our collection of the **Monterey's** line of weed control products. In addition to those above, **Monterey Grass Getter** can be sprayed over ground covers and shrubs to kill grasses growing around them.

It's time to set mowers to Summer levels: 2.5 inches to 3 inches for fescue and bluegrass lawns and 1.5-2 inches for Bermuda grass lawns. Remember: You cannot use pre-emergent products for 3-4 months prior to seeding a lawn or laying sod. You can, however, use **Bonide Kleen-Up** (41% Glyphosate) 6 to 7 days before seeding or laying sod. Before installing, click on this link for a **New Sod Care Guide**.



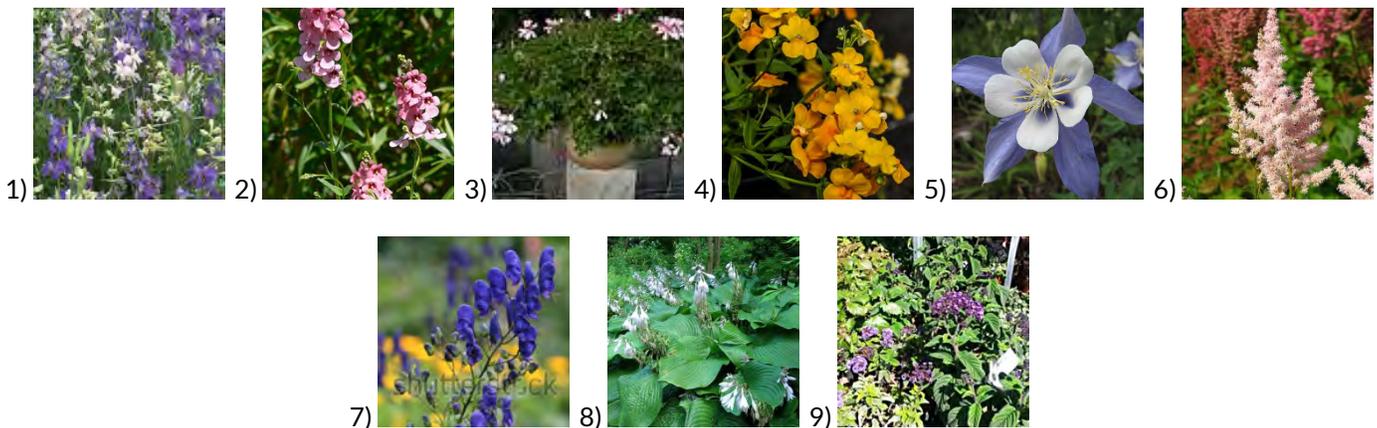
If your lawn shows holes one to one and one half inches in diameter, you probably have been infested with voles (meadow mice). You may have to control them with snap traps near the holes or **Mol-Med** which chases them away but does not kill them.

Several gardeners came in with masked chafer grubs which are three times larger than the usual grubs. They were found in lawns a vegetable garden and under trees. They feed on tiny roots. When mature they are called June bugs and feed on plant foliage.



REMEMBER: You cannot use herbicides or pre-emergent products for 3 to 4 months prior to seeding or reseeding a lawn or laying sod.

PERENNIALS



Many of the Summer bloomers are just coming into bloom. Check out 1) Delphinium, 2) Diascia, 3) Geraniums, and 4) Nemesia for the sun. 5) Columbine, 6) Astilbe, 7) Monkshood, 8) Hosta, and 9) Heliotrope for the shade. Come check out our amazing selection of perennials in 4 inch containers, perfect for pots or for money-wise landscaping.





A nice handful of sun-loving perennials double as both deer-resistant and drought-tolerant plants: 10) Lavender, 11) Yarrow, the 12) Salvias, 13) Echinacea, 14) Sea Lavender, 15) Society Garlic, 16) Penstemon, and 17) Brachycombe all provide excellent summer color in addition to their other practical attributes.

18) Lily-of-the-Valley plants don't grow well in the Bay Area because they need a cold and frosty winter typical of the Midwest and parts of the East. They are propagated from rhizomes, are green until frost and bloom in late spring. If you have cold winters, check the Western Garden Book for their care.



Spittlebugs generally make their homes on perennials and shrubs this time of year, looking literally like a wad of spit nestled in the leaves. Spray off with a hose or spray with **Master Nursery Nature's Pest-Fighter** or **Malathion**. These are the larva of leafhoppers, a sucking insect. Spinosad and Bt will not work on these spittlebugs.

Fertilize perennials in February, May and September with **Master Nursery Rose and Flower Food**, **Master Nursery Formula 49** or **Gardner & Bloome Rose & Flower Fertilizer**. You can skip fertilizing in May if your garden consists of perennials which thrive on neglect. Many of the drought tolerant perennials (see above), for example, prefer not to be pampered with high nitrogen, high phosphorus fertilizers. If you missed February, fertilize now.

Bait now with **Monterey Sluggo**, or **Deadline**. Especially vulnerable to snails are perennials such as 5) Columbine, 8) Hosta and 1 & 7) Delphinium. Be sure to read our warning on metaldehyde under the Annuals section.



Camellias should have finished blooming by now so it is time to prune them to size and shape. Don't be afraid to cut into bare wood because they will leaf out and fill in. It is also time to fertilize your Camellias with **Master Nursery Camellia, Azalea, Gardenia & Rhododendron Food**. Fertilize now and in 30 days and in 60 days and that is it. Use the same fertilizer every other month year round on your gardenias.

ROSES



Weather this Spring has caused the normal infestations of 1) black spot, 2 & 3) mildew and 4 & 5) rust.

When plants have been disfigured by fungus diseases, spraying will not remove the disfigurements. The spraying can only prevent further spread. If the spots and discolorations are a problem, prune them out before spraying.

1) Black spot appears in early spring as large, dark irregular spots on the upper surface of leaves. Control with **Monterey Liqui-Cop** and **Year-Round Spray Oil** (1 and 3 tbs. per gallon of water) or **Bonide Fung-onil**. Another approach to treat black

spot is to remove all of the infected leaves and dispose of them. As the Summer heat and lack of rain comes along, black spot does not spread. Be sure to avoid overhead watering.

2 & 3) Powdery Mildew appears as whitish splotches on the surface of leaves and on buds and stems. To control, use **Safer Garden Fungicide** once a week before the symptoms appear. If these measures aren't satisfactory, use a mixture of **Monterey Liqui-Cop** (1 tbs. per gallon of water) and **Monterey Horticultural Oil** (3 tbs. per gallon of water)

4 & 5) Rust appears as small yellow to black spots on the upper surface of leaves (as shown on 4), which, when flipped, show rust-colored pustules (as shown on 5). Use **Monterey Liqui-Cop** and **Monterey Horticultural Oil** or **Bonide Fung-onil** to control.



If rose blossoms do not open properly and have a puckered look, the problem may be a minute insect called thrips. Control by spraying late in the day with **Spinosad**.

Prevent weeds in Rose beds by applying **Concern Weed Prevention Plus**. This corn gluten product prevents seeds from germinating and contains 9% nitrogen, providing slow-release fertilization. *Never use **RoundUp** or **Bonide KleenUp** within 100 feet of Roses*; it's the surest way to deform new foliage and developing buds. You should hand-dig or use a tool such as a hula-hoe to remove weeds in the Rose bed. **Bonide BurnOut** can be sprayed on the weeds while they are young (up to 2 inches).

Rose slugs were a problem last year and seem to be repeating very early this year. If not controlled, the leaves on your Rose bushes may end up looking like grandmother's crocheting. The Rose slug starts life as a tiny green caterpillar look-alike on the bottom-side of leaves. As they eat and grow, the leaves are full of small holes which eventually merge. Control rose slugs with **Spinosad**, **Monterey Take Down Garden Spray** or **Malathion**.



Aphids can be controlled by blasting off with water, spraying with **Monterey Take Down Garden Spray** or **insecticidal soap**, or do nothing and let the good bugs eat them.

Rub off leaf buds that are facing the center of the plant. This will redirect growth to outward buds and help keep the center of the plant open to air and sun. Watch also for sucker sprouts originating below the bud union, and remove them by cutting off at the bud union. (Do not prune them off.)



Prune climbers such as 1) Cecile Brunner, 2) Lady Banks and 3) Belle of Portugal climbers after bloom because they only bloom once in the Spring.

Continue monthly feedings with **Master Nursery Rose & Flower Food**. For an organic alternative, apply **Gardner & Bloome**, every other month.



We have a very positive feeling about **Spinosad** which has been approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute and controls many harmful insects but not the beneficial insects. It is effective only on chewing insects (rose slugs, cucumber beetles, caterpillars, etc.) but not on sucking insects (aphids, scale, mealy bugs, etc.).

Alfalfa meal contains the chemical triacontanol which spurs the formation of new canes. Apply in March and June.

SHRUBS & VINES



Watch for thrips and Black Vine Weevil damage on rhododendrons. Thrips damage appears as a silvery mottling or bleaching of the upper surfaces of leaves. Undersides show small, glossy black dots. Weevils leave distinctive notches along leaf margins as they feed. Both can be controlled with **Malathion** or **Spinosad**. Black Vine Weevils can also be controlled with beneficial nematodes.



When Gardenia flower buds turn brown and drop off before they can bloom, it is probably because of a thrips infection. To help prevent this problem, sprinkle with **Bayer Tree & Shrub Protect & Feed** twice a year in containerized Gardenia soil. If your Gardenias are planted in the ground, they only need to be treated once a year.



Fuchsia gall mites create gnarled leaves with reddish blisters and are common on hybrid Fuchsias. If symptoms appear, U.C. Agricultural Service recommends that you prune out disfigured growth and spray with **Sevin** once a month. You can also begin a preventative program using **Sevin** once a month starting in March. Consider species Fuchsias, which are mite-resistant. While not as showy as the hybrids, they offer the same bloom time and a surprising diversity of foliar textures.

Extend your Azaleas' bloom time by planting Azaleas from the different hybrid groups. The last to bloom are the Satsuki and Kurume hybrids, in color now.

Camellia golden ring spot virus manifests as yellow rings or circular splotches on 2-year old or older leaves. It may also cause streaking in flowers. There is currently no cure for this virus, but it may be spread by pruning tools. Clean tools after pruning each plant with a 10% (1 part bleach to 9 parts water) bleach solution so as not to spread the virus to other Camellias.



Deciduous clematis is in or close to full bloom. As the month progresses, a great selection of the large-flowering and the longer-blooming hybrids will be available. Excellent in part to full sun, rampant and colorful, these vines simply require that their roots be kept cool. Mulch freely, with bark or **Master Nursery Gold Rush**, or plant under the edge of a deck or at the foot of a tree or shrub.



Tropical Hibiscus are available now; both the single and double flowered varieties in white, pink, yellow, orange, red and blends of these colors. They grow best in full sun and do equally well in the ground or in containers. Do not plant them where there may be a hint of frost or worse. They will not survive. Planted in a container, they can be pulled under the eaves in the Winter.



Mediterranean climate natives continue their unique displays of bloom through early summer. Check out 1) Sollya, 2) Protea, 3) Leucospermum, 4) Grevillea, and 5) Correa. While you may not be familiar with these plants, they make excellent additions to the landscape with their early bloom, deer-resistance, and tolerance to wet Winters and dry Summers.



1) Passion vine, 2) Bower vine and 3) Scarlet Trumpet vine bloom now through mid-Summer and make nice companions to 4) Potato Vine, which blooms all summer. Passion vine will also bloom all Summer.

If you haven't done so already now would be a good time to fertilize evergreen shrubs and vines, with **Master Nursery Formula 49** (8-4-4 plus micronutrients).



Both Azaleas and Camellias have been troubled by petal blight, which appears as brown splotching on petal margins of open flowers, partly open flowers and flower buds. Camellia petal blight can be controlled somewhat through sanitation: Remove infected flowers and buds and try not to let infected petals hit the ground. If they do, gather and place in trash immediately—*do not compost*. Azalea petal blight is controlled by spraying weekly with **Bonide Fung-onil** (Chlorothalonil) or **Monterey Liqui-Cop** starting at early bud stage.



Prune, trim, shape and fertilize your Azaleas, Rhododendrons and Camellias with **Master Nursery Camellia, Azalea, Gardenia & Rhododendron Food**, fertilize when they have finished blooming, then again one month later and a third time, one more month after that. If need be, Azaleas can be cut back to bare wood and they will come back and bloom next year.



Boxwood: A persistent leaf miner (shown on left) is infecting Boxwood in some areas. Treating the soil around the shrubs with **Ortho Tree and Shrub Insect Control**, once a year will take care of the problem. Do not use this insecticide on edible crops or plants commonly visited by bees.

OR leave them alone and let natural predators take care of them. Dispose of any leaves which fall off. DO NOT COMPOST.

TREES



Watch for powdery mildew on Crape Myrtles. If symptoms appear, spray twice with **Safer Garden Fungicide** a week apart. If you're thinking of planting Crape Myrtle, consider planting hybrids with the Native American tribal names, such as *Tuscarora*, *Hopi* and *Natchez*. These varieties were hybridized specifically to resist powdery mildew. Also be aware that these Crape Myrtles come in one of three size ranges: Semi-dwarf, Intermediate and Tree-type.

For established trees that are isolated in the landscape or for those trees which seem chlorotic, use the **Ross Root Feeder** to apply fertilizer and water. Otherwise, irrigate once a month May through September with bubblers at the drip line or inside a berm for several hours to overnight to ensure a deep soaking.



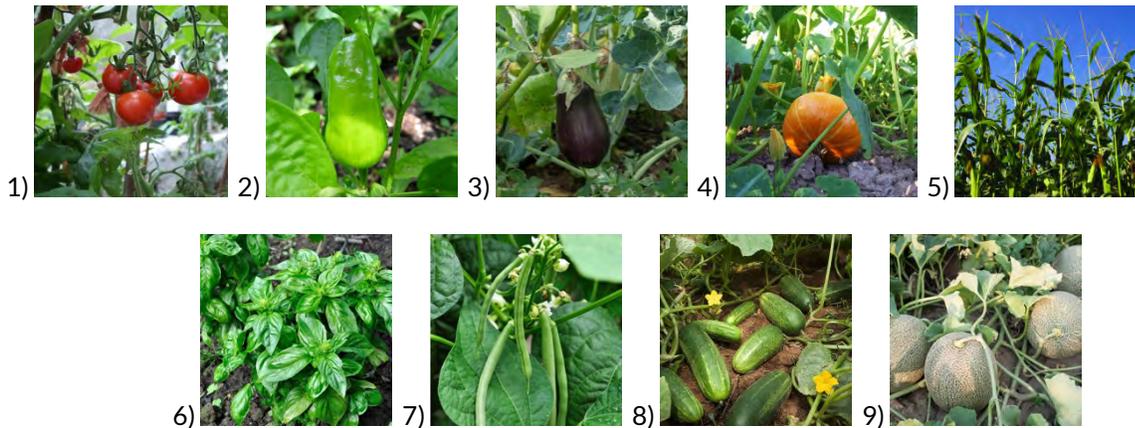
Come check out our selection of Japanese Maples, which includes unique varieties in small sizes as well as specimen sizes. We carry Bloodgood, Oregon Sunset, Coonara Pygmy, Kagiri Nashiki, Beni Shickihenge, Oshio Beni, Red Dragon, Shaina, Seiryu, Shishigashira, Sango Kaku, Crimson Queen, Garnet, Tamukeyama, and Viridis.



Prune and shape flowering deciduous trees, such as 1) Cherry and 2) Crabapple after they bloom. Fertilize with **Master Nursery Fruit Tree & Vine Food** about Memorial Day and Labor Day.

If your flowering 1) Cherry or 3) Plum trees have oozing amber colored sap on the branches (see symptoms for *Brown Rot* under the **FRUIT** section above) spray them next Spring on the same schedule as the fruit trees.

VEGETABLES



Time to plant, from starts, the following: 1) Tomatoes, 2) Peppers, 3) Eggplants, 4) Squash, 5) Corn, 6) Basil, 7) Green beans, 8) Cucumbers, and 9) Melons. Remember to replace soil liberally with **Mastery Nursery Tomato and Vegetable Fertilizer** or **Gardner & Bloome Tomato, Vegetable & Herb Fertilizer** as vegetable crops deplete nutrients from soils rather quickly. For an organic soil amendment, we like **Master Nursery Gold Rush**, which contains chicken manure. Work the fertilizer and amendment into the top 4 to 6 inches of soil.

Consider planting Cantaloupe and Pumpkins on mounds covered with black plastic. Increasing soil temperatures by trapping heat in this way may ripen fruit in a more timely fashion and make flavor better. Make mounds at least 3 feet in diameter or create raised rows at least 2 feet wide. Drape black plastic over sides and anchor using soil or heavy objects. Cut two-one foot slits in an 'X' shape and plant two seedling veggies in the center of the 'X'.



If you have had problems with verticillium wilt on Tomatoes and Potatoes, consider covering beds with clear plastic for 8 to 10 weeks during the months of June to September. This process, known as solarization, sterilizes the soil by cooking harmful microbes in the soil. Be sure to anchor plastic with dirt or heavy objects. While these beds will be unusable for a season, the sacrifice will pay off in healthy plants the following year(s).



For whiteflies on Tomatoes, use **Safer Insect Killing Soap** or **Master Nursery Year Round Spray Oil** 3 times, 5 days apart on the underside of the leaves. Consider using **whitefly traps** and a hand-held vacuum cleaner in conjunction with the sprays for more effective control.

Try at least one heirloom Tomato this year. Some delicious examples are: Paul Robeson, Purple Cherokee, Green Zebra, Rainbow, San Marzano paste, Pineapple and Caspian Pink.

Tomatoes make great container plants. Use at least a 15-gallon container for most types. Also try Sweet 100s or Sungolds in a 16 inch hanging basket. Patio and Husky varieties only grow about three feet tall and do not have to be staked. Check our [Vegetable Container Gardening Care Guide](#).

Plant Artichokes now from 4-inch pots or 1-gallon pots and give them at least a 4 foot by 4 foot space in a full sun area.



Cool season greens, such as 1) Lettuce, 2) Spinach, 3) Cilantro, 4) Chard, and 5) Mustard can be planted through the summer in morning sun locations. Under warmer temperatures, they will go to seed more quickly, so plan on planting more frequently.

Fertilize vegetables and vines, every six weeks, with [Master Nursery Tomato and Vegetable Food](#) or [Gardner & Bloome Tomato, Vegetable and Herb Fertilizer](#).



[Spinosad](#) will also control leaf miners (seen here on left) in Chard and other leaf crops. It can be used up to one day before harvest.

OTHER THINGS TO DO

Spread 2 to 3 inches of mulch over garden beds. Mulch materials can include fir bark, composted leaves, redwood fines and cocoa hulls, to name a few. In general, mulches are any organic material spread over the surface of the soil that decomposes and serves to retain moisture, discourage weeds and moderates soil temperatures. By spreading mulch now, you may be able to prolong turning on water systems once summer starts. Be sure to keep mulches 3 to 6 inches away from the crowns of plants and trunks of trees—for vegetables, mulch right up to the stems.

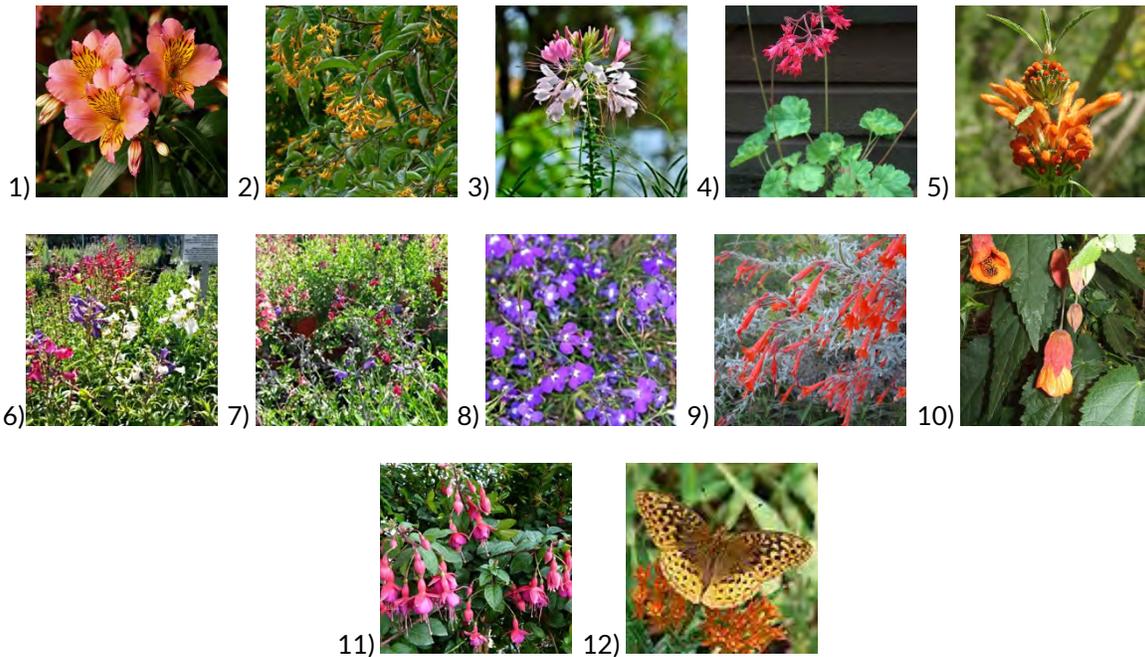


Consider utilizing beneficial insects in lieu of insecticides this summer. [Ladybugs](#) and their larva feast on aphids and white flies and are especially useful in Rose gardens and vegetable gardens. Release 50–100 at a time, in the evening. Set out shallow dishes of water along with plant parts covered with aphids. These props will encourage ladybugs to stick around. [Praying mantis](#), overall carnivores, are sold in their egg cases. Set out egg cases in a shady location off the ground, such as in a tree or shrub. Eggs will hatch mid- to late Summer.



[Beneficial nematodes](#) are useful for lawns and shade gardens which include Rhododendrons. Apply April/May and again in July. Put solution in watering can and water lawn or beds, applying as evenly as possible. Rinse out bucket to get all organisms. As ladybugs, mantis and beneficial nematodes are living creatures, remember not to apply insecticides in their midst, as they will be killed. Please see our [Care Guide](#) for [Beneficial Nematodes](#).

Birds are an asset to your garden for all of the insects they consume. However, they need a drink of water to wash down their food. Do you have a clean water source in your garden? A 16" or larger saucer under a shrub works well. Empty the container once a week and refill with clean water.



To attract hummingbirds and butterflies plant: 1) Alstroemeria, 2) Cestrum, 3) Cleome, 4) Coral Bells, 5) Lion's tail, 6) Penstemon, 7) Salvias, 8) Lobelia, and 9) Zauschneria. For shady places: 10) Abutilon and 11) Fuchsia are attractive. But hummingbirds spread Fuchsia mites after they come into bloom. (See under Shrubs and Vines above.)

12) *Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly weed) is a member of the milkweed family and a good food source for Monarch butterflies. Be careful using **RoundUp** or **Bonide KleenUp** (Glyphosate) because the milkweeds are very susceptible to these herbicides.

Squirrels are our third most disliked garden pests. If they are digging in flower boxes, pots or the vegetable garden, sprinkle some **Critter Ridder** in the affected areas. We have gotten good reports on **Critter Ridder**.

Critter Ridder is also good when used against raccoons.

Container plants must be fertilized much more often than the same plants in the ground. Evergreen plants, including trees and shrubs, must be fertilized year round. Deciduous plants are fertilized from Valentine's Day to Halloween (NO Winter fertilizer). Wegman's like to use the **Master Nursery** brand of fertilizers because they are produced to meet the needs of specific plants and our alkaline water. The pellets last almost a month and break down slowly. An easy way to remember how much fertilizer to use is to measure the diameter of the container and divide by six. That's the number of level tablespoons of fertilizer to use each month.

Consider watering indoor plants with 2 tbs. of vinegar per 1 gallon of water once a month in order to reduce salt build-up and to lower pH.

Sharp pruning tools make clean cuts that heal quickly. Check out our Pruning Tool Renovation Service, which includes cleaning and sharpening and replacing missing parts for pruners. If you're unsure whether we can service your tool, bring it in for assessment.



The Fourth of July is right around the corner. If you want to have red, white and blue color bowls or garden corners for the fourth of July, you should start now. Use **Gardener's Gold Potting Soil** for containers and amend garden spots with **Master Nursery Gold Rush**. Start with seedlings from cell packs and place them 3 to 4 inches apart. Within a month they should be touching one another. Example of Colors: 1) Red (*Vinca rosea*) or (*Impatiens*), White (*Alyssum*), Blue (*Lobelia*). They could be in concentric circles or you choose. Fertilize with liquid fertilizer after 3 to 4 weeks and then monthly.