



ELGIN NURSERY

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Desert Garden Calendar Monthly **DO** List

MAY

Grass

Plant Bermuda lawns when soil warms up in early May, to 65° or higher at night.

Fertilize Bermuda grass lawns each month beginning late April or early May.

Mow your lawn down to half of an inch until the winter rye grass dies. This encourages new growth and is healthy for the Bermuda lawn. Water grass early in the morning.

Trees/Shrubs

Plant young citrus trees. Two to five year old trees transplant most successfully.

Don't expect fruit for a few years. Pick early-maturing deciduous fruit from citrus trees before the birds get at them. Netting also helps, it can be purchased at Elgin Nursery. Ripen indoors.

For newly planted trees, protect trunk from sunburn. Tree paint can be purchased at our nursery.

Stake newer trees to protect them from summer wind storms.

Transplant cactus plants in May. Increase water to shrubs as the weather warms.

Don't water the Bougainvillea too much. you'll get bigger leaves and fewer flowers.

Flowers

Remove petunias, pansies, geraniums. Plant summer flowers, such as Lantana, Vinca,

Portulaca, Gonphorena purple buddy, and Perslane.

Flowers will benefit from a rich soil mixture of compost.

Vegetables

Plant seeds for black eyed peas, cantaloupe, muskmelon, squash, okra.

Provide shade for tomatoes. Shade cloth with 50% reduction is recommended.

Vegetables will benefit from a rich soil mixture of compost.

Monthly **DON'T** list for May

1. Do not prune citrus except to remove dead or damaged wood and branches obstructing pathways, views, or structures.
2. Do not use pre-emergent herbicides in an area where you intend to plant seeds.
3. Spot treat pest problems. We sell a wide variety of pesticides.
4. Don't use spray watering systems in the hottest months in the desert.
Drip is better and won't cause leaves, flowers, or vegetables to burn.
Don't water the grass during the hotter part of the day.