

PLANTS TO PLANT THIS MONTH

MAY

May in Zone 9b is all about establishing heat-loving plants, maintaining what you've already planted, and prepping for the summer ahead. The temperatures are climbing, but there's still plenty to plant and enjoy in the garden!

ANNUALS

If you want a lush, colorful garden this summer get these heat loving flowers in the ground now before the heat arrives:

ZINNIAS, SUNFLOWERS, SUPERTUNIAS, SUPERBENAS, GOMPHRENA, CELOSIA, AMARANTH SWEET POTATO VINE WILL BRING LUSH FOLIAGE TO YOUR GARDEN FOR NOT A HUGE INVESTMENT! LANTANA, GOMPHRENA AND SCAEVOLA LOVE THE HEAT THAT'S COMING UP SOON. IF THEY HAVEN'T LOOKED TOO GOOD IN YOUR GARDEN YET, DON'T WORRY, THEY WILL START SHOWING OFF AS THE TEMPS RISE!

PERENNIALS & SHRUBS

May is not the ideal month for planting perennials and shrubs since the heat will make it harder for them to establish. However, if you must plant, make sure they are well-mulched and watered. Some heat-tolerant choices include:

DROUGHT-TOLERANT PERENNIALS: YARROW, RUSSIAN SAGE, LAVENDER

POLLINATOR MAGNETS: SALVIA, AGASTACHE

EVERGREENS: BOUGAINVILLEA, TEXAS SAGE (LEUCOPHYLLUM), AND LANTANA WILL BRING LONG-LASTING STRUCTURE AND COLOR TO YOUR GARDEN.

ROSES: IF YOU PLANTED ROSES EARLIER IN THE YEAR, DEADHEAD REGULARLY TO ENCOURAGE REPEAT BLOOMS.

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FOR MORE PLANTS TO
PLANT BY MONTH, VISIT
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PLANTS TO PLANT THIS MONTH (MAY CONTINUED)

BULBS & RHIZOMES

Continue planting these stunning late summer-blooming bulbs:

GLADIOLUS, DAHLIAS, LILIES

Tropical bulbs and tubers that will thrive in the heat:

CANNA LILIES, ELEPHANT EARS, CALADIUMS, CALLA LILIES

SEEDS

Direct sow these quick growing flowers to keep color going all summer:

ZINNIAS, SUNFLOWERS, COSMOS, AMARANTH, CELOSIA

For vertical interest, plant these vining flowers:

HYACINTH BEAN VINE, CARDINAL CLIMBER, MOONFLOWERS

THESE HERBS CAN STILL BE PLANTED FROM SEED:

BASIL, DILL, OREGANO, CILANTRO (PROVIDE AFTERNOON SHADE FOR CILANTRO AS IT MAY BOLT)

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Plant these heat-loving crops like these and check your local planting guide usually found at a local garden center for more info and ideas.

SWEET POTATOES, PEPPERS, EGGPLANTS, WATERMELON, CANTALOUPE, PUMPKINS

It's harvest time, this will be ripening this month, stay on top of picking to encourage more production: TOMATOES, PEPPERS, EARLY-PLANTED CUCUMBERS

WHAT NOT TO PLANT IN MAY

You may be tempted and might even see some of these plants at your garden center, but avoid these plants this month.

COOL-SEASON VEGGIES LIKE LETTUCE, SPINACH, AND PEAS, THESE WILL BOLT AND STRUGGLE IN THE HEAT.

COOL-SEASON ANNUALS LIKE PANSIES, SNAPDRAGONS, AND CYCLAMEN WILL START STRUGGLING AS WELL. TRY AND HOLD OFF ON PLANTING THESE UNTIL FALL.

BARE ROOT ROSES AND FRUIT TREES, TOO LATE IN THE SEASON FOR STRONG ROOT DEVELOPMENT.



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