

MAY LANDSCAPING CHECKLIST

Flowers

- Remove spent flowers and foliage (once yellowed) on spring flowers.
- Plant tender annuals after the last expected frost date, approximately May 15.
- Set flower supports early. Let plants grow through them.
- Over-wintered tender annuals or tropicals such as hibiscus, gardenia, mandevilla and geranium may be pruned, cleaned, fertilized and gradually introduced to a protected location outdoors once night temperatures reach 50°F.
- Pinch the top 1-2" of new growth on chrysanthemums to encourage full bushy plants.
- Prune sage, butterfly bush, Russian sage and Caryopteris up to the point of new growth.
- Edge flower beds with sharp spade.

Lawn

- Fertilize with a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer and apply a broadleaf herbicide for weed control.
- Mow at the proper height. Never remove more than 1/3 of the turf height at one time. We recommend keeping your grass at approximately 3".
- Re-seed/repair damaged turf. Keep newly seeded areas or sodded turf well-watered.

Trees/Shrubs

- Prune spring flowering shrubs right after they are done blooming. These plants use the growing season to develop next year's flowers, so pruning them late in the season will remove next year's blooms! These include: Forsythia, lilac, viburnum, fothergilla, kerria, mockorange and weigela.
- Monitor your plants for pest infestations. Insects in moderation are a natural and necessary part of the environment, but excessive groups of them or excessive damage from them sometimes warrants treatment. Contact your landscape professional for identification and a treatment plan.
- Apply systemic insecticides to trees and shrubs (for example birch & viburnums) prone to borer right after they are done blooming.
- It's still a good time to apply a balanced, slow-release fertilizer to shrubs and perennials.