

## Gardener's Corner May, 2026

Ah, spring! We're still in the one-day it's 50, the next, it's 80+ phase. So waiting until after Mother's Day to start planting is a good idea. I'm getting eager to get tomato plants in the ground.

There are many tasks and tips for May from the **Missouri Botanical Garden**. For example, if a soil test indicates it, you can fertilize your azaleas after they bloom with an acid-based, slow-release fertilizer. It's also time to clip those dead blossoms, but more advice about how to do that for azaleas and other spring blooming shrubs below.

Although they may look unsightly, the foliage of spring bulbs (daffodils, tulips and others) should not be prematurely removed. Two videos on **YouTube** may help you tidy your garden now that the spring bulbs have spent their blossoms. One from **Gardening with Steil** from the *Gardening Tips* site can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbqRBMHKQg0&t=5s> Also view: *Care for Bulbs After Bloom - When to Safely Remove Flowers & Foliage*, which can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WljeRS1ULC8>

Gladiolus, caladiums, dahlias, cannas, and elephant ears can be planted when the ground warms and night temperatures are dependably 50°F or higher. Start planting warm-season annuals about mid-May (around Mother's Day). Begin fertilizing them as needed once they are planted. Plants that are prone to droop over, such as penstemon, monarda, and asters, can be pruned before they bloom.

All of us are consumed by how to contain weeds that seem to spring up overnight. A article that may help you in this, *Getting Ahead of Weeds*, is available on the **Gardening Know How** website. You can find the information at:

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/gorgeous-plants-for-controlling-weeds-ground-cover-perennials>.

Confused about what and how to prune after spring blooms on shrubs? This column in **Gardening Know How** discusses how to prune 7 different spring flowering shrubs. *Entitled Be Fearless & Prune These 7 Plants in May – Here's EXACTLY How Much to Snip Off Garden Shrubs to Get Way More Flowers*, this information will be helpful for you to use during May so that next year your blooms are more plentiful. You can find the article at:

[https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/be-fearless-and-prune-these-plants-in-may-for-more-flowers?utm\\_source=Selligent&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20260504\\_XGK\\_NWL&utm\\_content=20260504\\_XGK\\_NWL&utm\\_term=31060374&m\\_i=\\_y](https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/be-fearless-and-prune-these-plants-in-may-for-more-flowers?utm_source=Selligent&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20260504_XGK_NWL&utm_content=20260504_XGK_NWL&utm_term=31060374&m_i=_y)

