



# Riverview Garden Club Helpful Hints

## May 2018



If you have slug problems like I have when planting tender new annuals, transplants in the vegetable garden, or newly emerging perennials such as Hosta, try this solution. I save my egg shells all winter periodically crushing them into small pieces. The moment I notice slug damaged leaves, I sprinkle the crushed egg shells around the plant in a thick ring. When the slugs pass over the egg shells in the evening when they feed, their bodies are pierced by the egg shells and die. Gruesome yes, but it's better than handpicking which is another alternative.

**Roses**- Trim climbing roses and attach securely to fences or trellises. Fertilize rosebushes with some liquid fertilizer every two weeks.

**Flower Beds**- Mulch and keep the garden weeded to give emerging seedlings a chance. Stake and support any tall plants such as peonies before they start to fall over.

**Lawns**- Moles are searching for mates and grubs in your lawn. To get rid of the grubs, apply milky spore disease control (*Bacillus popilliae* or *Bacillus lentimorbus*), a dust you can buy at garden centers. To keep a healthy lawn, never cut more than one-third off the total grass height. Keep bluegrass cut at 1.5-2.5 inches, tall fescue at 2-3.5 inches, and zoysia lawns at 1.5 inches. Apply post-emergence broadleaf weed controls now if needed.

**Flowering Bulbs**- Don't cut the leaves off spent flowering bulbs. Dying and yellowing foliage may look unsightly, but leave it in place (don't tie it up) to help the bulbs ripen for next year's show. Begin planting warm season summer bulbs, such as dahlias, cannas, caladiums and elephant ears. Gladiolus bulbs can be planted at two week intervals as the ground warms. Bulbs can be moved or divided as the foliage dies.

**Transplants**- Before transplanting indoor plants, harden them off. Put in a sheltered spot during the day and bring them in at night. Then gradually increase their exposure to sun, wind, and cool temperatures.

**Container Plants**- Do not use a soilless potting mix for plants in containers. It should contain a good portion of soil. You can make your own blend by mixing one part compost, one part garden soil, and one part builder's sand.

--Sandy