



## **“From the Potting Shed”**

### Riverview Garden Club – May Helpful Hints 2023

As the soil warms and we get beyond the last frost date, typically after Mother’s Day, it’s time to direct sow annual and some vegetable seeds in the garden as well as put in young transplants and seedlings that were started indoors. Here are some garden chores to keep you busy this month!

#### ***Things to do in the garden...***

##### Maintenance:

- Finish preparation of planting beds
- Continue to cultivate planting beds and carefully remove young weeds
- Dig and divide early-blooming perennials after flowering
- Lift, divide and replant late summer and fall-blooming perennials
- Set supports for floppy plants, vines and vegetables
- Mow lawns regularly to keep grass at 2 1/2" height
- Begin watering program as necessary
- Continue weeding
- Aerate and moisten compost pile to speed decomposition
- Mulch azaleas and rhododendrons
- Complete edging and mulching of planting beds
- Deadhead bulbs but allow foliage to remain until yellow to nourish bulbs for next year's display
- As night temperatures moderate into the 60's, move houseplants outdoors (avoid full sun and windy locations)
- Look for pests and other problems; spotting early can mean fewer chemical controls. Note: slugs and caterpillars can be removed manually
- Apply deer repellents

### Planting:

- Move self-sown annuals and perennials to desired locations
- Sow seeds of corn, cucumber and melon directly in the garden
- Harden off tomato, eggplant and pepper transplants before planting out at end of month
- Complete planting deciduous trees and shrubs, weather and soil conditions permitting
- Continue to plant and transplant perennials
- Plant summer annuals after last frost date
- Plant summer-flowering bulbs such as gladiolus and dahlias after last frost date
- Plant caladium and tuberous begonias in shady spots
- Complete re-seeding bare lawn areas

### Pruning/ Fertilizing:

- Pinch back late summer and fall-blooming perennials
- Continue to prune all plant material to remove any diseased, dead, weak or crossing branches
- Prune early spring-flowering shrubs after blooming
- Wait to prune evergreens, hedges and other shrubs until late spring into early summer
- Begin deadheading roses
- Fertilize roses
- Fertilize needle evergreens with acid type fertilizer
- Fertilize bulbs as they finish blooming
- Fertilize annuals and container plants
- Fertilize lawns in late May (leaving grass clippings on the lawn can reduce the need to fertilize)

### Indoors:

- Finish re-potting houseplants as needed
- Take out houseplants as temperatures moderate; move to partially shaded, wind-protected location

***Happy Gardening!***