

PHYTONUTRIENT GARDENER'S MAY GUIDE

May is when the fun begins!



In the Phytonutrient Garden

Sow seeds of: Lima Beans, Snap Beans, Chard, Cucumber, Okra, Black-Eyed Peas, Peppers, Pumpkin, Malabar Spinach, Summer Squash, Winter Squash, Tomatillo. Fruits: Cantaloupe, Honeydew, Watermelon.

In the Phytonutrient Garden



Transplant okra, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, sweet potatoes, southern peas, and other heat-loving veggies. Mulch peas and cole crops to keep the soil cool; water them regularly. Thin peaches, plums, pears, and apples to about 6 inches apart.

In the Phytonutrient Herb Garden



You can still sow seeds of: Anise, Basil, Bay, Catnip, Comfrey, Cumin, Fennel, Germander, Horehound, Lamb's Ear, Lavender, Oregano, Perilla, Rosemary, Sage, Summer Savory, Winter Savory, Sorrel, Southernwood, Tansy, Tarragon, Thyme.

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Keep in Mind...



Watering may well be the single most important activity in the garden during the month of May! It is better to water established plants deeper and less often, rather than shallowly and frequently. The exception is newly seeded areas and seedlings, which may need daily watering.

Water only as needed; turn off automatic sprinkler systems when we get good rainfall. A landscape's watering needs vary depending on weather, and hot and/or windy conditions warrant more water. Your finger is your best moisture meter. For most landscape plants and trees, it's good to feel the soil about 5" down before watering. The best time to water is in the morning: daytime watering wastes too much precious water to evaporation.

Think about this...

The average daily temperature in the Austin area in May is 85°F, and we typically get about 4.5" of rain. Why not collect rain water! Even in a dry year, we typically get at least a little rain in May, so why not save it for later in the summer? An average home uses over 50% of its water to maintain its landscape. A rain barrel can very quickly pay for itself – and plants love rainwater!

