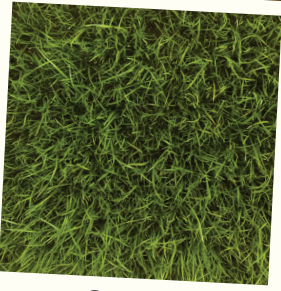


*We Beautify the World*

## MONTHLY TO-DO LIST



**GRASS**

- Plant Bermuda lawns when soil warms up in early May.
- Fertilize Bermuda grass lawns each month beginning late April or early May.
- Mow your lawn down to half of an inch until the winter rye grass dies. This encourages new growth and is healthy for the Bermuda lawn.
- Every few years your Bermuda will need to be dethatched when the thatch layer becomes more than ½" in depth.
- When temperatures hit triple digits it will be necessary to schedule Watering towards your most least drought tolerant, shallow rooted plants. If this becomes a daily requirement to keep the plants hydrated, consider changing to a less water intensive plant.
- Water grass early in the morning to minimize evaporation.



**FLOWERS**

- Fertilize established roses at two week intervals.
- Remove petunias, pansies, geraniums. Plant summer flowers, such as Lantana, Vinca, Verbana, Portulaca, Gomphorena purple buddy, and Perslane.
- Flowers will benefit from a planting mix high in organic content. Don't cheat on soil preparation for new flowers and vegetables. Add compost as needed and till in well for good soil drainage. Bone meal and blood meal are great organic amendments to add to the soil. Be sure to include a granular fertilizer that contains at least 20% phosphorus to help with root establishment. Weekly applications of liquid fertilizer like miracle grow for the first month will help establish the plants quickly.



**TREES & SHRUBS**

- Plant young citrus trees. Two to five year old trees transplant most successfully. Don't expect fruit for a few years.
- Water fruit trees on a 7 to 10 day deep watering cycle for the summer. The resulting fruit will be larger.
- For newly planted trees, protect trunk from sunburn.
- Stake newer trees to protect them from summer wind storms.
- Transplant cactus plants in May.
- Increase water to shrubs as the weather warms.
- Don't water the Bougainvillea too much. You'll get bigger leaves and fewer flowers.



**VEGETABLES**

- Plant seeds for black eyed peas, cantaloupe, muskmelon, squash, okra.
- Plant transplants for Jerusalem artichokes, sweet potatoes
- Provide shade for tomatoes. Shade cloth with 50% reduction is recommended.
- Vegetables will benefit from a rich soil mixture of compost.

# MAY



*Your Desert Garden*  
**Monthly DON'T List for May**

- Do not prune citrus except to remove dead or damaged wood and branches obstructing pathways, views, or structures.
- Do not use pre-emergent herbicides in an area where you intend to plant seeds.
- Spot treat pest problems.
- Don't use overhead spray watering for irrigating anything but turf if possible. Drip irrigation or bubbler irrigation is more efficient for deep watering of shrubs and trees.



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