



Marjorie's May Gardening Guide

May Gardening Guide

May is possibly the most exciting month when you could spend all your time in the garden. Plants are bursting into life before your eyes with the fruit tree blossom full of promise of things to come.

Put in plant supports

Why? Before plants grow too tall and flop over - especially if it's wet and windy. If you support the plants now they will grow up through the support and make it less visible giving the garden a more natural look.

How? It's a good idea to support them with stakes, twigs or wire plant supports. Twigs are most natural but not everyone has access to a plentiful supply. Garden centres and online suppliers have a great selection of appropriately shaped supports from obelisks for climbing plants to plant supports and stakes.

Plant out summer bedding

Why? If you've been to the Plant Sale or garden centre and come home with lots of plants to fill your borders and containers you need to do something with them now.

How? Empty spring containers of bulbs such as narcissi, muscari and tulips once they have finished flowering and transfer them to a suitable area in the garden. It's better to empty pots completely and add new compost for the summer bedding. These plants are susceptible to frost damage so watch out for frosts and be ready to protect plants overnight with fleece or newspaper if necessary.

Weeding

Why? Rising temperatures and longer days mean that weeds are growing strongly and competing with garden plants.

How? To keep on top of weeds it's worth devoting time to removing them each week. A hoe is a good tool to cut them off on a dry day otherwise dig them up by hand with a fork. Remember not to put the roots of perennial weeds such as dandelions or bindweed on the compost heap (the leaves are ok) because the heap may not be hot enough to kill them off.

Most importantly enjoy the garden and don't obsess about anything!

Marjorie