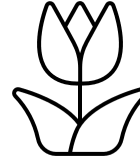
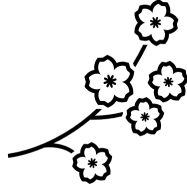

WHAT ARE OUR STAR GARDENERS DOING IN MAY?



Janet Schulz: Plant annuals. Continue putting compost on older established perennials. Keep an eye out for scarlet lily beetles. Visit another garden, then come back and enjoy your garden for at least a few minutes.

Marina Kunkera: May is a busy time in the garden, especially since April was too cold to complete my April chores. I will be planting my vegetables tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, squash, potatoes, corn, parsley and basil. I will hold off on the eggplant and hot peppers till June. Beginning of every month, I feed the roses and citrus trees. I will finish trimming the hydrangeas. I will be planting annuals, weeding, dead-heading, and mulching.

Sharon Ma: Stake, stake, stake!!! It is time to stake your peony, beard iris, and anything that needs support. Also check clematis if the new growth is climbing on the trellis or needed to be trained up.

Get deer spray ready! If you start spraying the new growth before deers find your beautiful plants, they will not keep returning to your plant. I use Bobbex-R which works great for deers and rabbits.

For anyone who is considering hiring a company to do the mosquito spraying on your property, please only use those who use non-toxic products, such as natural oil (cedar oil, peppermint oil, etc). Ask the company for the list of ingredients in their products and thoroughly understand how the products will affect the beneficial insects. Never hire them if they use synthetic pyrethrins, called pyrethroids. These pesticides are touted as natural because they are chemically similar to the pyrethrins produced by chrysanthemums. But "natural" or not, they are still pesticides and harmful to other insects and critters, especially to bees and fish.

Never hire a pest company to spray spotted Lantern flies on your property because it will kill beneficial insects and pollinators as well. SLF has four nymphal instars that are commonly seen in April-July. Toward the end of July, the winged adults appear. They are mostly attracted to trees of heaven and grape vines. People are using a handheld vacuum to suck them up. It works for all stages.

Barbara Douglas: Don't miss the gardening lecture hosted by the Wyckoff Public Library on Wednesday May 17th at 7PM, Signup at www.wyckofflibrary.com

"Small Space Gardening with Bracco Farms", Join a representative from Bracco Farms to learn about small space gardening, perfect for terraces, patios, and decks

Paul Sisko: I am still enjoying my later blooming tulips along with the new leaves of my dappled willow shrubs. I have just thatched and reseeded all my lawns which are all showing new growth. I have removed some of the shredded leaves from my beds which I put down in the fall, and raked the balance into the soil as compost. My favorite tool right now is my regular hand pruner for small to medium branches and my battery operated power hand pruner which will cut up to 1 ¼" thick branches.

Noel Schult: Here is a garden tip that I use all season:

I have an old teaspoon and an old tablespoon that I use in the garden. Here are a few uses:

1. Moving seedlings from the small cubes in flats. The teaspoon is the perfect size for removing seedlings that don't have sufficient roots to tip upside down to remove them.
2. Making small holes in the garden for seed planting.
3. Removing small weeds from the garden without leaving the roots behind.

Nancy Blasius :

1. Buying annuals and perennials which I want to use in the myriad of pots around my pool. Then comes the creative fun of putting them together so they coordinate but are unique.
2. Planting flats of deer proof annuals in various beds which need some summer-long color to accompany the ever changing perennial display. I will make sure I have zinnias and snapdragons. Some special ones I grew from seeds.
3. Will be planting some of my tomatoes out of my raised beds in mid to late May amongst my flowers, inside my fence, but not in the more animal-proof vegetable garden. Despite much rotation I still need to give the soil a rest so the fungal pathogens will diminish.
4. Gonna plant zucchini from plants rather than seeds to try to thwart the zucchini borer. I will be planting bush beans, and pole beans at the foot of my sugar snap peas which I will be helping to climb up their trellises as needed. I will also add more lettuce seeds, cucumbers, both seeds and plants, and as the weather gets warmer, a few eggplants, peppers, along with basil and dill seed.
5. Refurbishing an old lilac tree when it finishes blooming by cutting out one third of the oldest branches at the base.
6. I will watch the daily growth and have my deer repellent handy to help some of my less resistant babies survive. Some plants in my unfenced section will need temporary cages.
7. As soon as the night time temperatures stay above 50 degrees, I will bring a lot of tender houseplants outside to add to the display while rejuvenating them.