

Timely Tips for May Gardeners:

Due to the vast and diverse geography of our great state, Texas is home to nearly 5,000 native plant species! Often people envision “native plants” with Mesquites and Cacti but many of our basic landscape plants are native to Texas. Native plants tolerate the Texas summer heat better than most, require less water, less mowing, provide habitats for birds, butterflies and other wildlife, protect the soil and save on fertilizers and insecticides.

Texas Mountain Laurels or Desert Willows are native trees that will add colorful blooms to your landscape. For addition blooms and a Texas Sage with the purple summer flowers or a Red Yucca with its red spike-like blooms to the landscape.

Don't forget the reliable perennials for providing Texas tough color! Blackfoot Daisy, Gaura, Coneflower and many of your Salvias are native to Texas and will provide color year after year once they are established. Perennials are often those plants that can be divided, shared and passed on from generation to generation. You can also use perennials in a “cutting garden”. Select varieties that will bloom at different times of the year so something will always be in bloom.

Don't forget Mom this month! Color in May comes from more than a bouquet of blossoms for Mom on Mother's Day! Plan ahead and give that special lady a naturally-inspired bouquet that changes with the seasons. Add an **Encore® Azalea** for beautiful blooms from Spring through Fall. This collection tolerates more sun and is more cold tolerant than the average Azalea. **Bloom-a-Thon®** and **ReBloom® Azaleas** also give the additional blooming seasons but require more shade. Another flowering winner is the **Knock Out® Rose**, from single to double blooms, this family provides continuous flowers until the first freeze.

Free Clinics at your nearest Calloway's or Cornelius Nursery!

Saturday, May 3: Native Plants – Texas Style (10:15 a.m.)

Learn how to use native plants to beautify your home, conserve water and provide a wildlife habitat.

Saturday, May 10: Showstopping Shrubs - Colorful Roses and Azaleas (10:15 a.m.)

Add structure and color to your landscape with rose and azalea shrubs.

Saturday, May 17: Perennials – Your Reliable Friend (10:15 a.m.)

Learn the best bloom times for your favorite perennials of that your garden shows color throughout the year.

Saturday, May 24: Butterfly & Hummingbird Gardens – (10:15 a.m.)

Bring your garden alive with plants that attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Saturday, May 31: Create your own Masterpiece – The Basics of Landscape Design – (10:15 a.m.)

Experts walk you through soil preparation, plant selection and design concepts