

MAY GARDENING TIPS

Though this is not the right time for this tip, I wanted to share it with you in case I forget in the fall. Two years ago, when cleaning up after a frost, some of my wax begonias broke off when I was trying to pull them out. They came back the following spring from the root. This past fall I made a point of cutting them off at ground level, just to see what would happen, and most of them are now putting out new growth. Mind you, I plant my begonias in the sun rather than shade as they recommend.

I hope your daffodil greens are still being messy in your gardens. Continue to leave them alone until they turn yellow/brown.

By now you are probably adding annuals to your beds. Choose ones that may not even have flowers on them yet - or at least short, bushy plants. They will be healthier plants than some of the taller ones that have been forced into bloom.



Add marigolds to your gardens - they are a natural insect repellent.

It's still okay to prune your hedges.

When choosing plants for your containers, remember to combine those with similar growing needs - water and sun exposure.



Planting tomatoes? Give them a lot of space - as much as 4' apart if possible - to allow room for staking or cages. Also remember to plant them deep - burying as much as 1/2 to 2/3 of the plant - or at least up to the level of the first real leaves. This will give them a stronger root system to support the plants/vines as they grow.

Do you have a pond? Now's the time to clean it out, making a 15-25% water change over several consecutive days. After removing some of the water, clean out any dead leaves and other debris, and then restart your filter.

The Marylanders Plant Trees program is still on-going, with 40,000 trees planted around the state and over 300 planted and registered in Talbot County. The goal is to plant one million new trees around the state by 2011. If choosing a native tree, you can get a \$25 coupon for any tree costing over \$50. Coupons are available at some nurseries or they can be printed out from the website www.trees.maryland.gov - Only one coupon per tree, but no limit on coupons per customer.

