
Mayfield Park

Notes To Garden Adopters

A MONTHLY MAINTENANCE AND PLANTING GUIDE FOR VOLUNTEERS

JUNE 2024

Bulbs:

- Please try not to move bulbs or remove them from gardens. **BULBS ARE EXPENSIVE**. We want bulbs in the gardens!
- Bulbs are great to have in every garden and some are actually historic. Move them if you must but keep them in the ground at Mayfield. If you don't have a place for them in your garden, please place them in the volunteer shed to share with your fellow gardeners.
- Remove bulb foliage after it is brown and dried. If bulb foliage is removed while still green, bulbs will not bloom next year.
- The exception is cat's claw vine bulbs, which are invasive and should be removed and thrown away. In the trash, not the compost pile.

Finished with the gardening tasks in your garden?

Consider helping with the following:

- Cat's claw vine can be dug up anywhere in volunteer garden area. These invasive bulbs should be thrown away in the trash.
- Volunteer palms appear regularly and should be dug up and discarded.
- Tall Ruellia (Mexican petunia) has been a problem in the garden area and should be removed from all garden plots.
- Any garden plot marked as available can be weeded and trimmed.

Compost and healthy soil:

- Healthy soil has to have organic matter in it. It needs to be mixed into the soil at a 1/3 compost to 2/3 soil ratio. Compost contains a host of living micro-organisms which are continually generating a free supply of naturally slow-release 10-5-2 nutrients along with a long list of micro-nutrients. Compost also improves the structure of the soil in a healthy way because the organisms are aerobic.

- There are many bulbs in the various beds which may make mixing in compost difficult. In this case spread a thin layer of compost on top of the garden, even on top of the mulch and wash it in with a hose.

Mulch:

- Add mulch in a THIN, loose layer throughout the beds for a nice look. A thin layer works better as it will allow water from the irrigation system to soak through.
- Mulch the areas between plants. Irises should not be mulched at all.

Heirloom Plantings

Many of the plants in the volunteer gardens are very old. They have been tended carefully over the years and divided to increase their numbers. The Mayfield Park gardens are filled with irises, lilies and amaryllis that date back decades. At the end of the summer the garden area is vibrant red with Oxblood and Spider (Lycoris) lilies that have multiplied over many years. At one time there were hundreds of these bulbs in the garden area and we are encouraging our garden adopters to add more of these to their gardens.

Our Heirloom Plantings: The Mayfield Park gardens are filled with irises that date back decades. Look for the small plant signs marking the locations in the various garden plots.

Eleanor Roosevelt 1933

Florentine 1937

Gibson Girl 1946

Helen Collingwood 1949

Indian Chief 1929

Mme. Chereau 1844

Ola Kala 1943

Pink Formal 1949

Ranger 1943

Rodeo 1947

San Francisco 1927

Look also for the following heirloom daffodils as they are scattered throughout the gardens: Sweetness, Dreamlight, Carlton, Geranium, Dick Wellborn, Trivithin, Geranium, Lintie

At the end of the summer the garden area is vibrant red with **Oxblood Lillies** that have multiplied over many years. At one time there were hundreds of these bulbs in the garden area and we are encouraging our garden adopters to add more of these to their gardens.

Special Note

Please use organic fertilizers and never pesticides nor herbicides.

Monthly tending: *Keep beds free of weeds and debris. Dig out Cat's Claw and remove bulb (or bulbs-there can be more than one along the root), do not simply pull, then discard bulb and vine in a trash bag, never on the compost pile. Cut back plantings that have been damaged by frost. Replenish mulch as needed. Remove floral bulb foliage after it is brown and dried. If foliage is removed while still green, bulbs will not bloom the following year. Refrain from removing desirable bulbs, but if you must, please place them with a label (if you know what they are) in the volunteer shed for replanting.*

January

THINGS TO PLANT

Flowering plants: Snapdragon-don't plant when temperatures are freezing or a freeze is expected.

Bulbs: Anemone, Canna Lily, Crinum, Daffodil, Daylily, Spider Lily, Rain Lily, prechilled Tulips and Ranunculus-All of these should be planted early in the month before freezing temperatures arrive.

THINGS TO DO

Fertilize: Daylilies and winter bloomers

Water: Everything well before a freeze. Mayfield will have irrigation system turned off when freezes are expected, therefore a good hand watering before a freeze turnoff can protect your plantings. Water at the base of the planting and avoid the foliage.

Tend: Cut back plantings that have been damaged by frost. Replenish mulch as needed.

February

THINGS TO PLANT

Flowering plants: Butterfly Weed, Coneflower, Cornflower, Larkspur, Penstemon, Phlox, Snapdragon, – never plant if freezing or if freeze is expected.

Bulbs: Agapanthus, Anemone, Calla Lily, Canna Lily, Dahlia, Daylily, Gladiolus, Iris, Spider Lily, Rain Lily

THINGS TO DO

Fertilize: All winter bloomers

Prune: Roses by removing all dead wood, crossing canes and cut the entire plant back by half.

Water: Everything before a freeze. Mayfield will have irrigation turned off when freezes are expected, therefore a good hand watering before a freeze can protect your plantings. Water at the base of the planting and avoid the foliage.

Prepare Soil: Amend your beds with compost or bagged garden soil for spring planting.

Tend: Cut back plantings that have been damaged by frost. Replenish mulch as needed.

March

THINGS TO PLANT

Flowering plants: All perennials, Ageratum, Ajuga, Amaranthus, Brugmansia, Coleus, Columbine, Coreopsis, Coxcomb, Dahlia, Feverfew, Gaillardia, Hardy Hibiscus, Lamb's Ear, Mexican Oregano, Perennial or Garden Phlox, all Salvias and all Sages, Sedum, Scented Geranium

Flower Seeds: Cosmos, Sunflower-Plant or sow mid-month after danger of freezing has passed.

Bulbs: Amaryllis, Calla Lily, Canna Lily, Crinum, Chinese Ground Orchids, Daylily, Gladiolus, Rain Lily, Iris

THINGS TO DO

Fertilize: Your entire garden with an all-purpose fertilizer blend.

Water: Water all new plantings well

Tend: Amend your soil early in the month with 2-3 inches of compost if you didn't get to it in February. Cut back plantings that have been damaged by frost. Replenish mulch as needed. And keep your garden neat & tidy.

APRIL

THINGS TO PLANT

Flowering plants: This is a great planting month. Plant all perennials, all warm weather annuals, Perennial or Garden Phlox, all Sages and all Salvias, Zinnias and Vinca.

Bulbs: Amaryllis, Chinese Ground Orchid, Calla Lily, Canna Lily, Crinum, Daylily, Ginger, Gladiolus, Oxblood Lily, Rain Lily, Spider Lily

Flower seeds: Cosmos, Feverfew, Four-o'clock

THINGS TO DO

Fertilize: After blooming feed bulbs with a high phosphorus product or bone meal, feed flowering plants and roses with a complete fertilizer product

Water: Water all new plantings in well and others as needed

Tend: Allow all bulb foliage to yellow and die before removing. Mulch flower beds after soil has warmed. Remember to keep your gardens weed free, neat & tidy for our guests.

May

THINGS TO PLANT

Flowering plants: All perennials and warm season annuals. When choosing mums look for heirloom or adapted that will act as perennials.

Bulbs: Caladium, Canna lily, Ginger, Daylily, Gladiolus, Oxblood Lily, Rain Lily, Spider Lily

THINGS TO DO

Fertilize: Amaryllis and Iris after they bloom. Remember to never mulch Iris.

Water: Water all new plantings and the rest of your garden as needed.

Tend: Mulch all bare soil and around plants to retain moisture. Pinch back leggy annuals to encourage branching and fullness. Deadhead plants (snip off spent flowers) to encourage continuous blooming.

June

THINGS TO PLANT

Flowering plants: All perennials and warm season annuals.

Bulbs: Amaryllis, Canna lily, Crinum, Ginger, Daylily, Oxblood Lily, Rain Lily, Spider Lily. Fertilize with high phosphate fertilizer and water in well.

THINGS TO DO

Fertilize: Fertilize new annuals with balanced fertilizer. Feed established annuals and perennials with high nitrogen such as 15-5-10. Water well after fertilizing.

Water: Water in all new plantings. Water established plantings deeply to encourage deep root growth.

Tend: Mulch all bare soil and around plants to retain moisture. Pinch back leggy annuals to encourage branching and fullness. Remove (deadhead) spent blooms from flowering plants. Please keep your beds weed free, tidy & neat.

July

THINGS TO PLANT

Flowering Plants: It's better to be keeping established plants alive now rather than putting in new plantings, but if you have bare spots, you can add these: most perennials, Ajuga, Cockscomb, Marigold, Periwinkle, Zinnia

Bulbs: Spider Lily, Oxblood Lily-a fall bloomer. Fertilize with high phosphate and water in well

THINGS TO DO:

Fertilize: Fertilize annuals and perennials if you skipped June. Water well after fertilizing.

Water: Water in all new plantings well. Water established plantings deeply to encourage deep root growth.

Tend: General weeding and mulching for a neat, cared for appearance.

August

THINGS TO PLANT:

Flowering Plants: As with July this is not a good month for new plantings but if you have bare spots these can still go in: most perennials, Vinca, Zinnia

THINGS TO DO:

Fertilize: Fertilize your entire garden with a balanced product. Always water after fertilizing

Water: Water all new plantings and always water deeply to encourage deep root growth.

Tend: Mid to late month discard faded annuals if they are spent and amend soil for fall bulb planting. General weeding and mulching for a neat, cared for appearance.

September

THINGS TO PLANT:

Bulbs: Calla Lily, Daylily, Oxblood and Spider Lilies (might not bloom until next fall), Rain Lily

THINGS TO DO:

Begin shopping for Daffodil and other bulbs. Prepare beds for planting in October by general weeding and then amending the soil with our on-site amendments if available or garden store products.

Divide: Separate crowded bulbs and either replant them in your garden's bare areas or place them in the volunteer shed and let Janice know they are there.

Tend: Remember to keep your bed in a neat and cared for appearance.

October

THINGS TO PLANT:

Flowering plants: all perennials, Ajuga, Bluebonnet, Butterfly Weed, Cone Flower, Cornflower, Forget-me-not, Penstemon, Phlox, Salvia, Sedum

Seeds: When given a choice between plants and seeds, try for plants as they are more reliable and require much less hands on work.

Bulbs: Calla Lily, Chinese Ground Orchid, Crinum, Daylily, Ginger, Iris, Oxblood and Spider Lilies (probably won't bloom till next fall), Lily, Oxalis, Rain Lily. If you are interested in Tulips, now is the time to purchase them and store them in your refrigerator.

THINGS TO DO:

Fertilize: Fertilize Iris and other spring blooming bulbs with a high phosphorus fertilizer or bone meal.

Divide: Divide crowded perennials and plant at your home or share with friends.

Tend: Mulch gingers and other perennials that will winter to retain moisture and warmth. Don't prune now, save that for winter. Remember to keep your bed in a neat and cared for appearance.

November

THINGS TO PLANT

Flowering plants: all perennials, Ajuga, Bluebonnet, Butterfly Weed, Calendula, Cornflower, Cone Flower, Forget-me-not, Penstemon, Phlox, Primrose, Snapdragon, Viola

Bulbs: Agapanthus, Amaryllis (in container), Anemone, Chinese Ground Orchid, Calla Lily, Crinum, Daffodil/Jonquil, Grape Hyacinth, Dutch Iris, Ginger, Oxblood Lily, Rain Lily, Summer Snowflake, Lily, Society Garlic, Spider Lily

THINGS TO DO:

Fertilize: Fertilize bulbs with high phosphorus fertilizer or bone meal in the planting hole.

Water: Water everything well before a freeze.

Divide: Divide crowded perennials and plant at your home or share with friends.

Tend: Remember to keep your bed in a neat and cared for appearance.

December

THINGS TO PLANT:

Flowering Plants: perennials, Blue Bonnet, Calendula, Cone Flower, Cornflower, Snapdragon

Bulbs: Agapanthus, Amaryllis, Anemone, Calla Lily, Canna Lily, Daffodil/Jonquil, Chinese Ground Orchid, Crinum, Ginger, Grape Hyacinth, Hyacinth (pre-chilled), Iris, Rain Lily and prechilled Tulip

Look for bulbs that will naturalize (come back year after year). Check out southernbulbs.com for a great selection of bulbs that will naturalize.

THINGS TO DO:

Fertilize: Fertilize bulbs with high phosphorus fertilizer or bone meal in the planting hole. Feed winter bloomers such as snap dragons every 4 – 6 weeks.

Water: Water everything well before a freeze.

Prepare: Prepare dormant beds for spring planting: clean out dead and spent plants. Amend soil with bagged soil or compost. Replenish mulch to be ready for winter temperatures. Remove bulb foliage after it is brown and dried. If foliage is removed while still green, bulbs will not bloom next year. Do not remove desirable bulbs but if you must please place them in the volunteer shed

Tend: Cut back plantings that have been damaged by frost. Replenish mulch as needed.