

# Plant Ranch Nursery

## THINGS TO DO IN MAY & JUNE

**1. Lawn Maintenance.** It is time to apply your second application of fertilizer. We recommend Fertilome Classic Lawn Food with slow release nitrogen or for the organically inclined, Espoma Organic Fertilizer and Lawn Food.

**2. Chinch Bugs.** Begin watching for chinch bug damage in St. Augustine lawns. The damage usually occurs in sunny locations near the street, sidewalk or driveway. The grass dies in patches and turns straw brown. To test for Chinch Bugs use an open ended can and push into the grass 3", fill with water above the grass line and wait five minutes. Chinch Bugs will float to the top. Damaged areas do not recover and must be plugged or sodded. Treat damaged areas with an approved insecticide or ask a pest control company to treat them.

**3. Vegetable Gardens.** Keep ripening vegetables harvested to lengthen the time the plants produce.

**4. Watering.** If the weather is dry, water the lawn when grass blades fold or every three days at  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch per application. Remember your watering restrictions.

**5. Fruit Trees.** Peaches, nectarines and plums begin ripening in late May. Harvest them as soon as they mature -- before squirrels and birds get them.

**6. Mole crickets.** Mole crickets are the No. 1 lawn pest problem in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. Control them when mole crickets are small. Water the lawn before applying an insecticide. Use High Yield Bug Blaster which can be purchased at Plant Ranch.

**7. Fertilize palms.** Fertilize palms every two months starting in March and continuing through September. Use a fertilizer recommended for palms and apply at the rate specified on the label.

**8. Gardenias.** Fertilize and prune gardenias once they have finished blooming. It is normal for the lower leaves to turn yellow and drop when new growth flushes.

**9. Azaleas.** Check azaleas for lace bug damage. The damage from lacebugs appear as whitish specks on upper leaf surface. Spray in late evening with Fert-lome Azalea, Camellia, Crape myrtle spray to control the insect.