

Baginton Gardener

Top Tips for May

- Prune spring shrubs after flowering to keep them compact.
- Plant out dahlia tubers and other tender plants after all risk of frost has passed.
- Tie in new shoots of climbing plants to their supports.
- Check plants for pests, especially lilies and fritillaries for scarlet lily beetles.
- Harden off tender plants raised indoors, but bring them back in at night to protect from late frosts.
- Pinch out shoot tips and thin out seedlings, to encourage bushier growth and strong-growing plants.
- Earth up potatoes, covering the shoots with soil as they appear.
- Sow sweetcorn in deep pots, so the young plants are ready to transplant into the garden in June.
- Reduce snail populations by going on regular evening hunts, especially during damp weather.
- Sowing runner, dwarf and climbing French beans, directly outdoors in warm weather.
- Open fruit cage doors or lift netting to ensure pollinating insects can get access to the flowers.
- Remove all strawberry runners, so plants put their full energy into fruiting.
- Use fleece to protect young seedlings or fruit blossom, if late frosts are forecast.
- Put up Greenhouse shading to lower daytime temperatures and reduce scorching of young plants.
- Open Greenhouse doors and vents on warm days, but close in the evening on cold nights.
- Transplant tomatoes into growing bags or large pots tying main stems to a cane for support.

Our next meeting is on **19 May at the British Legion Club, Kimberley Road, Baginton @ 7:30pm** when Darren Rudge will give a talk on the perfect hanging basket, patio pot and window box.

Everyone is always welcome so please spread the word, entrance fee is £5 per meeting.

In order to continue the viability of the group, the committee are looking at new ways to fund the high-quality entertaining speakers the group wants to provide other than membership.

- Do you work for a company who would make a monetary donation large or small to the group? Many companies have a volunteer's match funding policy.
- Would you or the company you work for be willing to donate a raffle prize?
- Do you have any cuttings, seedling or unwanted plants you would be willing to donate for the group to sell to raise some extra funds?

If you can help in any way to ensure the Baginton Gardeners group is able to continue, please send your ideas or questions to Sue Burgham seburgham@gmail.com