**April Hortibull Calendar**

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Spring is here. We consider the weather warm and stable enough to remove the bougainvillea, hibiscus, plumeria and other cold sensitive plants from the green house. It is also time to place the tomato transplants in the garden. Recommended varieties include Tygress, Tycoon, BHN 968, 444, Solar Fire, Phoenix, and Celebrity. Small numbers of Merced and Surefire may also appear on the market. They are always a good choice.

There is still time to plant green beans, cucumbers, summer squash, sweet corn and peppers.

Fertilize the lawn with slow-release lawn fertilizer after you have mowed real grass two times. The growth indicates that the root system is developed enough to use the nutrients.

Some sand burs and other warm weather weeds may already have germinated but you will prevent later germination if you apply a pre-emergent herbicide like Crabgrass Preventer, Amaze or XL. Apply a second dose at the end of May.

To allow seed production and distribution, allow wildflowers and naturalized flowers such as paperwhites and larkspurs to brown naturally. This “ugly” period is necessary unless you are willing to replant each year.

The orange flowers making a show in many landscapes now are pomegranates. Their fruit is tasty and nutritious but sometimes we forget that the plant is a good addition to the landscape. Most area nurseries have a good selection of varieties; Wonderful is the old reliable but consider other selections as well. Some are inclined to be small trees and some are shrubby. Pomegranates also seem to be deer proof; at least they are in my neighborhood.

At some point late in the month, the temperatures become warm enough to plant Bermuda grass seed. If you plant it too early, it will not germinate.

If you have a landscape that includes cover, blooms and food plants, you can expect migrants such as warblers, buntings, orioles and American sparrows to visit. The most effective way to attract them for observation, however, is to provide running water. A small recycling stream is a bird magnet.