

# Post Rock Answers

By Cassie Thiessen May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Post Rock Extension District Horticulture Agent

### May Gardening Calendar

Spring is finally here and it's time to take care of our blooming landscapes. This is a busy season for most of us, but getting outside can be relaxing and rewarding. Use this helpful checklist to have a colorful landscape this year.

#### Vegetables and Fruits

- Plant tomato, pepper, and eggplant transplants
- Seed sweet corn, cucumbers, squash, beans, and other warm season vegetables
- Lightly cultivate soil with a hoe to control weed growth
- Mound soil around potato plants to encourage tuber formation
- Harvest fresh asparagus until the spear size decreases
- Remove rhubarb seed stalks to encourage leaf growth
- Plant kitchen herbs for summer use in dishes or food preservation
- Treat fruit trees with needed pesticides to control insects and disease
- Thin heavy fruit set on apples to increase fruit size and next year's crop

#### Flowers

- Plant annual flowers for summer color
- Continue to plant and divide perennials
- Mulch perennial and annual gardens for weed control and moisture retention
- Begin pinching chrysanthemums for bushier plants
- Do not remove foliage from spring bulbs until it dies down naturally, this develops stronger blooms for next year
- Plant container gardens and hanging baskets using a good quality potting mix
- Keep a garden journal for permanent reference

#### Lawns

- Sod or sprig zoysia lawns to fill in bare areas
- Fertilize zoysia lawns with high nitrogen to promote green up and summer growth
- Apply slow release nitrogen fertilizer to bluegrass and tall fescue to promote summer growth if watering during the summer.
- Lower maintenance lawns skip this application
- Mow bluegrass and tall fescue at 3 inches
- Spot treat broadleaf weeds

## **Trees and Shrubs**

- Plant new trees and shrubs
- Prune spring flowering shrubs after bloom to shape the plant and encourage flowers next year
- Mulch around young trees and shrubs to conserve moisture and control weed growth
- Water young ornamentals as needed
- Remove tree wraps for summer growth
- Remove tree stakes that have been in place more than one growing season
- Fertilize trees to help increase growth rates
- Use caution with line trimmers around trees and shrubs so as not to damage tender bark

## **Houseplants**

- Move plants outdoors for summer by gradually increasing the exposure to sunlight
- Fertilize plants to promote summer development
- Rotate plants to develop a well-rounded plant
- Wash dusty leaves in the shower under room temperature water
- Four to six inch cuttings are a great way to start new plants, root in potting mix under low light
- Repot plants into a one-inch larger pot
- Check for insects

K-State Extension has a variety of resources for all your gardening and landscaping needs this summer. Stop by or give us a call with your questions.

*Post Rock Extension District of K-State Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith counties. Cassie may be contacted at [cthiessen@ksu.edu](mailto:cthiessen@ksu.edu) or by calling Beloit (785-738-3597).*