

Settling Into A Delightfully Relaxing May

By **Derek Thomas** - May 18, 2017



Iris, a true showstopper in any garden.

Spring can be a bit overwhelming, especially in the life of a gardener. Early season garden tasks are a lot to handle. Then there is the pace we must keep to make sure our garden is perfect. There is never an end to it, and it is always hurry and rush.

As if this were not enough to throw you off your A game, spring has a tantalizingly wicked sense of humor. It unfolds, no, explodes, with showmanship that even a ringmaster would struggle to match. Colorful kaleidoscope world where senses are skewed and time endlessly short. Some plants last days, :

what is one of the most fleetingly finicky yet urgently transitory seasons of them all. Snowdrop inches per day to keep pace in this wondrously competitive season. Azaleas bloom and fade at any energy left after their electrifying display of color.

Sometimes after all this fuss it is easy to fall into the lowly doldrums of May. It is easy to want You should not. But, if you're not one for annuals and a true gardener's gardener, May is the moment and bask in the enjoyment of May's splendidly relaxing flowers.

The May Pacesetters

Here are a few of my favorite May showstoppers. I picked them for being hardy, unusual, reliable how to take their time while providing joyful gardening pleasure.

- Iris: This is a maverick, an unstoppable plant with a flow so frilly it almost looks as if the pla together. In our Capitol Hill gardens we can plant Dutch, German, and Siberian varieties and sunny spot with enough room to spread out. If you are planting the German type, make sure rhizome exposed for best success. There is a native iris in our region called the flag iris, and however, not to let it seed as it can be a bit invasive.
- Foxglove: This biennial superstar of the shade is a joy with its wide, strapping leaves and lor poisonous, so if you have pets who eat plants, plant something else. If you don't, then find a enjoy. If you let the seeds mature, you will have baby foxgloves that will bloom every other
- Perennial Bachelor's Button: Like a purple floating sea urchin in your garden, this plant will b leaves shoot up spikes whose flowers seem to float in a sea-green ocean of lushness. Plant t like a lean diet and will reward you with loads of plants to share with your plant-swap group.
- Clematis: Worth the fuss! This plant looks like a dried-up vine in mid-March. Don't throw it o and by early May the eight-petal flower explodes and screams that May is here. Plant this vi the shade. Make sure the location allows the vine to grow up into the sun and you will be gif garden.
- Species Azalea: These showstoppers bloom later than the traditional azalea. They are semi-c heavily as their counterparts, but it is so nice to see the yellows, oranges, and reds on their any collector. Grow in mostly shade and give them an acid fertilizer and you will have years c

A Task for May

I did say we were going to relax this month as our garden takes on a slower, more enviable pace. The May superstars you may stumble across in the local garden center, have got your creative cap on before you take the time to smell the roses. After your planting is done, kick back and know it the lilies and gladioli and dahlias that are the summer show troops will arrive with a wh



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Derek Thomas, "The Garden Guy," principal of Thomas Landscapes, is an accomplished garden HGTV's "Curb Appeal" and the DIY Network. View his garden segments on YouTube. He has worked in Washington, DC, and is a contributor to the Smithsonian's garden programs. He can be reached at 202-544-5182. You can find and friend us on Facebook at Facebook/Thomas Landscapes. Follow us on Twitter for tips.