

# YOUR MAY GARDEN GUIDE

## *2026*

This guide is for anyone who cares about their garden  
but sometimes feels unsure about what to focus on next.



WILD & WOVEN



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# *Welcome* Friends!

I have worked in landscaping and garden maintenance for over twenty years, alongside caring for my own town garden through all its seasons. Over time, I have seen how gardens respond to steady attention, practical decisions, and patience rather than quick fixes.

These guides are shaped by that experience. They reflect how gardens develop month by month, how structure supports planting, and how small, considered steps build confidence over time. My aim is to offer a clear and realistic way of thinking about your space, so you can move forward with greater certainty.

*Louise*  
*Louise Kirby*  
Landscape Gardener



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I wrote this guide for anyone who wants to care for a garden, no matter the size of the space or their level of experience.

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*Chapter 01*

# Who This Guide Is For



I wrote this guide for anyone who wants to care for a garden, no matter the size of the space or their level of experience.





## Who This Guide Is For

You might be completely new to gardening, with a small garden, balcony, or a few pots. You might have a larger garden that feels overwhelming or half-finished. You might be busy, tired, caring for others, managing work, health, or a full household. You might love the idea of gardening but feel unsure where to begin when you look outside.

You do not need specialist knowledge, expensive tools, or a perfect plan. Gardening is not only for people with large country gardens or lots of money. It is for everyone. My own garden is in a town, shaped by real life, changing energy, weather, two dogs, and years of learning by doing.

Gardening does not need to be physically demanding to be meaningful. If your strength, mobility, or energy are limited, even small acts of care still count. Clearing one path, tending a pot, or simply deciding what not to do this month can make a difference over time. Many people garden with help, from partners, family, friends, neighbours, or a trusted local gardener. That does not make the garden any less yours. It is still shaped by your choices and your care.

This guide is here to help you choose one or two useful things, move forward steadily, and feel supported as you do.



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*Chapter 02*

# What May is Like



May is the point where the garden begins to feel more settled and usable.



- The garden becomes somewhere you spend time, rather than something you are always working on.

There may still be ongoing work, and some larger projects may not yet be complete, but the balance begins to shift.

Growth is strong now. Lawns, borders, and weeds all respond quickly to light and warmth.

Traditionally, May has long been associated with growth, fertility, and connection to the land. It is a time when gardens begin to feel full of life again.



## The Role of May

It is a month for:

- maintaining what has already been done
- responding to steady growth
- continuing larger jobs where needed
- making the space comfortable to use

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## Hawthorn (The May Tree)



May has long been recognised as a turning point in the year, when the land moves from early growth into fullness.

Before modern calendars, seasonal changes were often marked by what was happening in the landscape. The flowering of hawthorn, often known as the May tree, was one of those signs. Its blossom signalled that the season had shifted, and that life was moving forward again.

Hawthorn is often found along boundaries, in hedgerows and at the edges of fields. It has long been associated with thresholds, places where one space meets another.

Even now, you may notice it coming into bloom, soft white flowers appearing along roadsides and in hedges.

Paying attention to these small changes is a way of reconnecting with the rhythm of the land.

Over time, this awareness can shape how we care for our gardens and the spaces around us.

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## What May is Like

May is often one of the most enjoyable months in the garden.

Daylight stretches towards 15 to 16 hours by the end of the month.

Mornings and evenings feel usable, even on working days.

There are two bank holidays (4th and 25th May), which often bring time outside, whether that is sitting quietly, sharing meals, or gathering with others.

The weather can feel warm in the sun, though wind can still carry a chill. Sheltered areas often feel most comfortable.

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## A Note on the Moon

- New Moon: 16 May 2026, 04:02am (Taurus)
- Full Moon: 31 May 2026, 03:45am (Sagittarius)

Some people like to notice the rhythm of the moon alongside the seasons.

The New Moon is often associated with setting direction. Taurus brings a sense of grounding, stability, and connection to the physical world, which can relate closely to working with the land and tending your space.

The Full Moon is more associated with completion and release. Sagittarius carries a sense of expansion and perspective, which can be a moment to step back and notice how the garden is developing as a whole.

This does not need to guide what you do, but it can offer a quiet point in the month to pause and reflect.

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*Chapter 03*

# Looking at Your Space



This month, it can help to look at your garden as somewhere you will spend time.





## *Looking at Your Space*

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You might consider:

- where you naturally sit or pause
- how the space feels to walk through
- what feels welcoming, and what does not
- what small changes would make it easier to enjoy

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“ The garden suggests there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway.”

— Michael Pollan

A garden does not need to be perfect, but when it is cared for, it often feels more inviting. It becomes an extension of the home, somewhere you can settle into more easily.

Even a small amount of care can change how a space feels.

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*Chapter 04*

# In My Own Garden



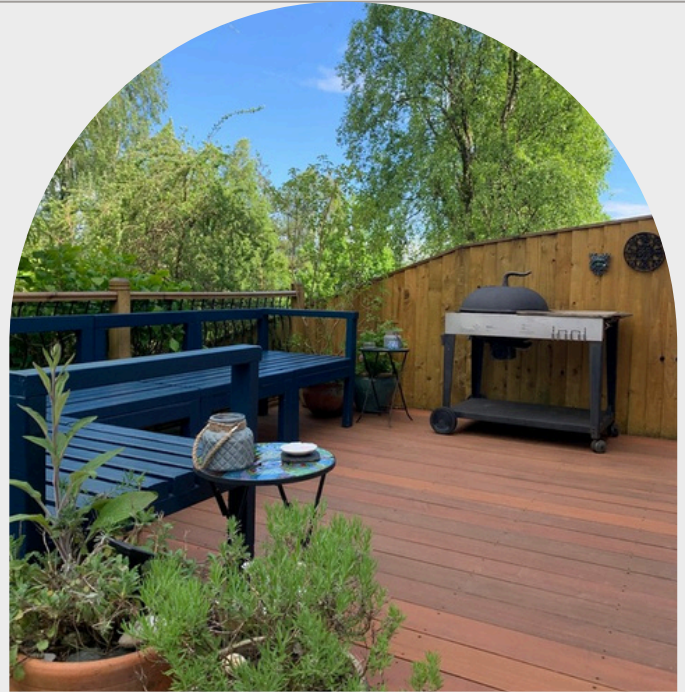
May has followed on from a very busy period of work.



## Over recent weeks:

Some of the larger planned jobs, such as building a retaining wall, installing a new fence, and planting a tree, are still to be completed. At the same time, a lot has been done:

- lawn regularly cut
- borders weeded and edged
- new planting added, including foxgloves, azalea, and rhododendron
- front decking cleaned, sanded, and re-oiled
- benches and handrails refreshed
- fencing treated
- lighting added to improve usability



- pots repositioned
- small repairs and finishing details completed
- strawberry plants replanted after pest issues
- tomato seeds sown
- wild growth cleared to allow light through

Alongside this, Richard and I have been working in other people's gardens. Balancing this with our own space can feel full at times.

The result is that, although not everything is finished, the garden is now a space that can be used and enjoyed. Ongoing work will continue, particularly structural elements and planting areas.

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*Chapter 05*

# Maintenance and Growth



Growth is strong in May.





## Work might include:

You may notice:

\*grass needing frequent cutting \*weeds appearing quickly \*borders filling out, or showing gaps \*early fruit forming on trees \*rose buds beginning to develop

Rather than letting this build up, it can help to do small amounts regularly. A few minutes of weeding here and there often prevents a much larger job later.

In my own garden, I tend to use bark in shrub borders. This helps suppress weed growth and makes it easier to remove anything that appears. I also keep a couple of soil borders, which need more regular attention. These areas benefit from keeping an eye out for persistent weeds. If conditions are dry, watering becomes important, especially for new plants and containers.

## A Simple How To: Managing Weeds Early

Weeds are easiest to manage when they are small. Rather than waiting until an area feels overgrown, it can help to: notice weeds as you move through the garden, pull a few at a time, regularly remove them before they flower and set seed.

Common weeds you may begin to see include: dandelions, chickweed, bittercress, buttercup, nettle, dock, bramble shoots, bindweed

Bindweed in particular is persistent. It is unlikely to be removed completely, but removing it early helps keep it under control.



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*Chapter 06*

# Planting in May



Planting continues, with more options available as the risk of frost reduces.





## Planting in May

You might consider:

- planting shrubs and perennials
- filling gaps in borders
- planting containers for summer
- sowing vegetables outdoors
- planting out tender crops later in the month

It is also a time to notice what is working, and what is not.

Rose buds are beginning to form and may start to flower towards the end of the month.

At the same time, you may notice areas that feel empty or lacking early colour, which can guide planting decisions in future seasons.



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*Chapter 07*

# Supporting Wildlife



Wildlife activity continues, though it may vary from garden to garden.





## *Supporting Wildlife*

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You might notice birds more than insects at times, even if pollinators seem fewer than expected.

There are simple ways to help:

- provide fresh water
- allow flowering plants to bloom
- avoid disturbing nesting areas
- notice which plants attract insects

Each garden, however small, can offer something back to the wider environment over time.

Even small gardens contribute to the wider landscape. Thoughtful care has more impact than it sometimes appears.

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## *Keep bird feeders topped up.*



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*Chapter 08*

# Possible May Jobs



Choose one or two that feel most useful for your garden.



- Possible May Jobs

- Choose one or two that feel most useful for your garden.

## Beginner

- regular mowing
- light weeding
- watering during dry spells
- tidying seating areas
- spending time in the garden



## Intermediate

- planting summer containers
- filling border gaps
- maintaining edges
- small repairs
- organising sheds or tools



## Advanced

- continuing structural work
- installing supports for climbers
- refining planting areas
- improving access and layout

These are options, not expectations, and will vary depending on your space.

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*Chapter 09*

# A Simple May Rhythm



It can help to do small jobs regularly; respond to what is growing; continue larger work steadily and spend time in the garden, not just working in it.  
A little time each week can make a noticeable difference.





# May Garden Journal

May Garden Journal  
This month, you might record:

- what you chose to focus on
- what carried over from April
- what has changed or filled out
- what worked well
- what needed adjusting
- what you would like to develop next

Keeping notes over time builds familiarity with your garden.  
Patterns become clearer, and decisions grow easier.

Gardens develop over years. A written record helps you see  
that development taking shape.

You can download my free guide on how to keep a garden  
journal here:

[arkgardenservices.co.uk/#how-to-keep-a-garden-journal-free-guide](https://arkgardenservices.co.uk/#how-to-keep-a-garden-journal-free-guide)



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*Chapter 10*

# Looking Ahead to June



June often brings fuller growth and a more established feel to the garden.  
The work done now helps the garden carry itself more easily into early summer.  
Remember we have Father's Day on the 21<sup>st</sup> June this year.



# Closing

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A garden does not need to be finished to be enjoyed. With steady care and attention, it can become a place that feels welcoming and settled over time.

Looking after a garden is also a way of caring for the land, however small the space may be. When many people do this, it contributes to something wider.

If you would like to connect with others doing the same, there is a small Wild & Woven WhatsApp group where people share what they are working on and support each other along the way. You are very welcome to join. You can contact me, Louise on WhatsApp +447890 047684 I will pop in, as will Richard to answer your landscaping and gardening questions!



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*[@WildandWov3n](#)*

# THANK YOU

*for using this guide.*

Gardens change slowly, and so does confidence. If these pages have helped you look at your space with a little more clarity, that is enough.

## About Us

Wild & Woven is created by me, Louise. I have worked alongside my husband Richard in landscaping and garden maintenance for over twenty years through our business, **Ark Fencing & Garden Services** in Cwmbran, South Wales. Our work takes place in real, lived-in gardens. We value structure, durability, and spaces that feel welcoming and cared for.

## What is Wild & Woven

Wild & Woven grew from a desire to share the thinking behind our practical work. Many people want a garden that feels settled and well cared for, but are unsure where to begin. These guides offer a calm, realistic way to plan and tend your space over time.

We believe that small, steady care for the land matters. When more people look after their patch thoughtfully, it strengthens the wider landscape too.

## Find Out More About Ark!

If you would like to find out more about our landscaping business you can visit our website [arkgardenservices.co.uk](http://arkgardenservices.co.uk) or find us on all the socials!

