



# 2010 MAY

Dwarf crested iris is a wonderful little plant, native to much of the eastern United States. These 6-inch-tall plants spread by rhizomes at or near the soil surface. Over a relatively small number of years, they will form a dense mat of a foot or more in diameter. Flowers occur in white and various shades of blue, and the bloom time is mid spring. This iris will do well in a variety of light conditions, from full sun to partial shade. Hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 4 or colder, dwarf crested iris are well adapted to gardens throughout much of New England.

SUNDAY							MONDAY							TUESDAY							WEDNESDAY							THURSDAY							FRIDAY							SATURDAY																																																							
<b>APRIL</b> SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30														<b>JUNE</b> SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30																																																								<b>1</b> Sunrise 5:43 am Sunset 7:47 pm  Be on the lookout for hatching gypsy moth caterpillars.																											
<b>2</b> Sunrise 5:41 am Sunset 7:48 pm							<b>3</b> Sunrise 5:40 am Sunset 7:49 pm							<b>4</b> Sunrise 5:39 am Sunset 7:50 pm							<b>5</b> Sunrise 5:38 am Sunset 7:51 pm							<b>6</b> Sunrise 5:36 am Sunset 7:52 pm ☾ Last Quarter Moon							<b>7</b> Sunrise 5:35 am Sunset 7:53 pm							<b>8</b> Sunrise 5:34 am Sunset 7:54 pm																																																							
Manage young gypsy moth caterpillars by treating with <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> (B.T.).														Harvest rhubarb stems by pulling, not cutting.														Flea beetles are tiny black beetles that can damage young plants in the vegetable garden.														Use floating row covers over crops to provide a barrier against flea beetles.														Work wood ash into soil before planting root crops like carrots, radish, and beets.														Wood ash provides potassium and phosphorus, nutrients important for root growth.														Make plantings of sweet corn and green beans every 2 weeks until the end of June.													
<b>9</b> Sunrise 5:33 am Sunset 7:55 pm <b>Mother's Day</b>							<b>10</b> Sunrise 5:32 am Sunset 7:56 pm							<b>11</b> Sunrise 5:30 am Sunset 7:57 pm							<b>12</b> Sunrise 5:29 am Sunset 7:59 pm							<b>13</b> Sunrise 5:28 am Sunset 8:00 pm							<b>14</b> Sunrise 5:27 am Sunset 8:01 pm ☾ New Moon							<b>15</b> Sunrise 5:26 am Sunset 8:02 pm <b>Armed Forces Day</b>																																																							
Edge the borders of flower beds to maintain a neat appearance and keep grass out.														Garlic mustard is an invasive weed with heart-shaped, toothed leaves which smell like garlic when crushed.														Pull out garlic mustard before its small white flowers go to seed.														Identify insects before deciding if control is necessary. Many insects are beneficial.														Prepare soil for laying sod the same as for lawn seeding.														Keep sod well-watered until roots are firmly established.														Watch for aphids, spider mites, and slugs on pansy plantings.													
<b>16</b> Sunrise 5:25 am Sunset 8:03 pm							<b>17</b> Sunrise 5:24 am Sunset 8:04 pm							<b>18</b> Sunrise 5:23 am Sunset 8:05 pm							<b>19</b> Sunrise 5:22 am Sunset 8:06 pm							<b>20</b> Sunrise 5:21 am Sunset 8:07 pm ☽ First Quarter Moon							<b>21</b> Sunrise 5:21 am Sunset 8:08 pm							<b>22</b> Sunrise 5:20 am Sunset 8:09 pm																																																							
Select plant varieties known to have resistance to diseases and insects.														Plant small trees like paperbark maple ( <i>Acer griseum</i> ) and white fringetree ( <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> ) in small yards.														Check yourself thoroughly for deer ticks after working in the yard.														Save nursery and seed catalogs to use as references.														Plant summer flowering bulbs: <i>Acidanthera</i> , <i>Caladium</i> , <i>Hymenocallis</i> , <i>Tigridia</i> , and <i>Zantedeschia</i> .														Prune forsythia and quince after flowering to remove crowded or unhealthy branches.														Check the undersides of spinach leaves for aphids.													
<b>23</b> Sunrise 5:19 am Sunset 8:10 pm							<b>24</b> Sunrise 5:18 am Sunset 8:10 pm							<b>25</b> Sunrise 5:17 am Sunset 8:11 pm							<b>26</b> Sunrise 5:17 am Sunset 8:12 pm							<b>27</b> Sunrise 5:16 am Sunset 8:13 pm ☽ Full Moon							<b>28</b> Sunrise 5:16 am Sunset 8:14 pm							<b>29</b> Sunrise 5:15 am Sunset 8:15 pm																																																							
Cut faded lupine flower stalks back to encourage re-blooming at the end of summer.							<b>30</b> Sunrise 5:14 am Sunset 8:16 pm							<b>31</b> Sunrise 5:14 am Sunset 8:16 pm <b>Memorial Day</b>							Wild ginger ( <i>Asarum canadense</i> ) and European ginger ( <i>A. europaeum</i> ) are evergreen groundcovers for moist, shady areas.														Set up a drip irrigation system in the vegetable garden.														Spot treat instead of broadcasting weed killers over large areas of lawn.														Sow pumpkin and squash seed in the garden now.														Save space by growing vine crops like cucumbers and cantaloupes on a wire trellis.																				