

## MAY

by Harry Zirkelbach 03-21-2011

*May, our fifth month, is one of two months with a female connotation. It may have been named after the goddess of the same name, though Ovid said "May" was named after another tribe, "Mayores", oddly know to you and me as "Elders".*

*Of course our vote is for the goddess.*

*We, stuck in the Northern Hemisphere for life, don't care where the name derives. Because May is associated with rejuvenation, the return of summer, sunshine, flowers, comfort clothing, tweeting of birds, a lilt to the step, hint of rose in the cheek. And in our earlier lifetime, genuine romance.*

*Less we forget, for children, young adults, May is the end of the school year, onset of children's vacation. And adults remember what challenges that brought to the family for an agonizing/precious three months.*

*Alas for Windsor Garden it is merely the fifth month, although we have a small contingent for whom it is the sun's return from a southern winter perch. Then, they joyful toil and labor in soil, from the last frost of spring to the first freeze of winter. That's what each agreed to do; yes slackers may be reprimanded, though this has never been needed.*

*The actual gardening onset is carefully formulated. The moon and sun are not involved, nor earthquakes, wars, arrival of monthly Security Checks, grocery prices, wakes. It is something more important. It is the date determined by the the ever congenial Dana Cusack, the day Dana predicts Denver has had the last frost of winter. Important, because Dana controls the water to the gardens, and all know Colorado is a semi-arid land. Without water we remain under the threat of a continuous Dust Bowl existence. Dana is that guardian.*

*From before the first trickle of water, there is preparation. Members met the morning of 12 March 2011 renewed friendships, expectations, rules, greeted two guest speakers from Denver Urban Gardens. Their reminder, healthy dirt, water, planning, and a little toil, magically produce vegetables for a healthy table the later summer months.*

*Gardener's mouth water at that prospect.*



*Even before Dana's water there is the choice of what is to be grown, allotting space for each item. This is better done before the soil is tilled, the rows chosen. Because once the water is available, the growing season is another day nearer its end, and a prompt onslaught essential.*

*First the plotting, then water, then planting. Immediately, nothing happens. Undetected, earth has begun to move, as wee seed, root as plant, takes a peek, is pleased, show the amazing transformation, rooted in soil, prospering in sunlight. Thousands of times the size of seed,.. Of course, weeds do the same, so the challenge, remove weed, without annoying plant, all summer.*

*Harvesting is the first reward. Accepting what seed offered. Then the ultimate reward, sharing on glorious days when the bounty seems endless. For all this, some 50 happy residents give thanks for the humble seed, Dana, the gifted small Windsor Garden plot, the month of May.*