

April

Annuals:

- Plan your garden.
- Plant hardy annuals such as dusty miller and pansies.
- Prepare your annual beds by clearing out last years plants, leaves, and mulch.

Bulbs:

- Plan where you want bulbs in your garden. Plan for both spring and fall planting.

Fruits:

- Finish pruning while the plants are dormant. Ideally, pruning should be done late February through March.
- You can plant most potted trees and fruits as soon as the soil is easy to work with. The exception is blueberry, which should be planted in May.
- Fertilize fruits before growth occurs.
- Begin scab control on apples and pears. Spray susceptible plants as buds begin to swell and repeat every 7 to 14 days until dry weather returns.

Herbs and Vegetables:

- In mid April, it is safe to plant asparagus and rhubarb.
- Prepare your vegetable garden by removing last year's debris and adding amendments and fertilizer.

Lawns:

- Now is a great time to patch and repair your lawn. Try using an easy to use repair kit that has seed in mulch. Water new sod and repaired areas well.
- There is no need to fertilize yet.
- Start mowing as soon as you need to. Try keeping the grass at least 2.5" tall, but preferably 3-3.5" tall.
- Apply a crabgrass pre-emergent in mid to late may.
- Rake out dead grass.

Perennials, Ornamental Grasses, and Groundcovers:

- You can plant perennials when the ground will allow it – usually in late April.
- Clean out existing perennial beds as early as you can. You will want to cut ornamental grasses to the ground before new growth appears. Remove dead foliage and stems of all perennials. Cut Russian sage to several inches above the soil.
- Apply pre-emergent weed killer. This is important in all your beds, but especially your perennial beds.

Roses:

- Remove winter protection.
- In late April, you can start to plant.
- Prune out dead and winter damaged canes.

Shrubs:

- Prune summer and fall blooming shrubs before new growth appears. Prune pines to control size now by cutting 1/2 to 2/3 of the expanding candles. Arborvitae and yews can be pruned now, before new growth appears. Junipers can be pruned now to control size.
- April is a great time to plant shrubs. Finish transplanting shrubs before new growth appears.
- Water new and transplanted shrubs thoroughly. Established plants will not need much water in spring.

Trees:

- Prune oak, honeylocust, birch, and maples before buds open. This may need to be done in March. Now is the time to prune evergreens if you need to cut a lot off.
- You can begin planting as soon as the ground is workable.
- Remove all winter protection from trees.
- Before growth begins on trees is a good time to fertilize. Use fertilizer spikes specifically for trees or use actual nitrogen. Read labels to determine how much to apply. Fertilizer can be spread over mulch, just be sure to rake and water it in.
- Established trees will not need much watering during the year. Newly planted trees will need good soakings after they are planted. Thoroughly soak with 2 inches of water the area under the dripline of the tree.