



ADA STORE  
0395 S.R. 235 – 2½ miles North of Ada  
419-634-0351

Visit our website at:  
[www.newleafgardencenter.com](http://www.newleafgardencenter.com)

KENTON STORE  
927 E. Columbus, Rt. 67 by Shopping Plaza  
419-675-2718

April hours for both stores: M-F 9-5, Sat. 9-3, Sun. CLOSED



## Gardening Tips and Tricks

*With all that's going on these days, we have seen a renewed interest in vegetable gardening. Here are some important gardening tips that will help the beginning gardener and the seasoned gardener on their way to a successful garden.*



**Know your soil** – It doesn't matter how much you spend on a plant, if the soil isn't right it may not thrive. If you have clay soil, you can add gypsum to help break up the clay. Adding soil conditioners act to improve soil aeration, drainage, moisture-holding capacity and workability of the soil. Commonly used soil conditioners include compost, peat moss and composted animal manures. Nutrients need to be available in the soil for your plants, but the pH also has to be right so the plant will effectively take up the nutrients from the soil. The best way to know your soil is to have it tested. We carry pH testers and test kits that you can do yourself, or bring a soil sample in to either store for pH testing. You can also contact your local OSU Extension office for a test kit and send it in. They will send you back a report on what is needed in your soil so you can amend it properly without guessing and possible saving you money on adding things you don't need.

OSU Extension – Hardin County  
1021 W. Lima St. Suite 103  
Kenton, Oh. 43326

OSU Extension – Hancock County  
7868 Co Rd. 140 Suite B  
Findlay, Oh. 45840

OSU Extension – Allen County  
2750 Harding Hwy.  
Lima, Oh. 45804

**Fertilizing Basics** - All edible plants remove some nutrients from the soil, and some have such huge appetites that they will quickly exhaust the soil without the help of fertilizer. Fertilizing is especially helpful early on, when plants are making fast new growth. Always be sure to read the label for directions and follow the rates given on the fertilizer label when deciding how much to use. Too much fertilizer can be worse than too little! When you look at a bag of fertilizer, you will always find 3 numbers. This is called the fertilizers "analysis" and represents the percentage of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium (also called Potash) that's in the bag of fertilizer. These nutrients are usually abbreviated as N-P-K. If you purchase a 10 lb. bag of fertilizer labeled 5-10-5, it would contain 5% nitrogen, 10% phosphorus and 5% potassium, in that order.



**1<sup>st</sup> Number = Nitrogen (N):** promotes dark green color & rapid growth, improves yield & quality of leaf crops, enhances protein of food crops and aids in stress tolerance and disease resistance

**2<sup>nd</sup> Number = Phosphorus (P):** stimulates early root growth and promotes plant vigor, hastens plant maturity & influences blooming, seed formation and fruiting, imparts winter-hardiness in grasses and perennials

**3<sup>rd</sup> Number = Potassium (K) potash:** imparts vigor, disease resistance and encourages rooting, aids in protein formation and fruit quality and stem for stalk stiffness

Many fertilizers also include trace elements that plants may need to stay healthy, especially in clay soil.

**Heavy Feeders:** These are often highly productive plants, so a few minutes spent mixing in fertilizer before you set out plants is time well spent. Plants often grow slowly in cool spring weather, so you won't see the effects of feeding until the weather warms. Some heavy feeders also respond to second helpings later in the season. This includes: Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Cabbage, Cantaloupe, Cauliflower, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Kale, Kohlrabi, Onions, Peppers, Rhubarb, Squash, Tomatoes, Watermelon

**Moderate Feeders:** These often need good drainage and moisture-holding mulch more than they need fertilizer. This includes: Beets, Carrots, Okra, Pole beans, Potatoes, Sweet potatoes

**Light Feeders:** These often benefit from a small amount of starter fertilizer but require no additional feeding when grown in soil that has been enriched with compost. They include: Bush beans, Mustard greens, Peas, Turnips



**Rotating Crops** - This process is vitally important to the health and productivity of your garden. From disease prevention to nutrient balancing, the benefits of crop rotation make it worth the effort of the extra planning. One approach to crop rotation is to divide your plants into these four basic groups: legumes, root crops, fruit crops, and leaf crops. Imagine your garden separated into four areas. Each successive year, you would move each group one spot clockwise. Rotating your crops helps in:

**Disease Prevention** – Disease organisms can build up over time resulting in crop failure. Rotating crops keep these organisms in check.

**Insect Control** – Crop rotation also helps reduce insect infestations.

**Nutrient Balance** – Different families of plants require different nutrients. Rotating crops, you keep the soil from being depleted.

**Hardening Off Seedlings** - If you grow your own vegetable seedlings indoors, you will need to adapt your seedlings before transplanting them into the garden. This adjustment process is called "Hardening Off." It adapts plants to the outside, so they can get used to sunlight, wind, rain, cool nights, and less frequent watering and fertilizing. About a week or two before your transplant date, place your plants outdoors in a protected spot in the shade away from harsh wind for a few hours on the first day. Allow your plants to remain outside for a few hours, then bring your plants back inside. Then increase the amount of time that the seedlings spend outside gradually to allow the plants to adjust slowly. Continue to harden off seedlings by moving the plants outside while temperatures are warm and then back inside at night when the temperature is cool and add a couple of hours each day. Allow them to be exposed to a little more sun each day and to experience gentle breezes. Eventually, allow your plants to stay in full sun and outside as long as night temperatures do not drop below freezing. Cool season crops such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, lettuce, onions, peas, spinach, Swiss chard, & other hardy greens can tolerate low nighttime temperatures of around 45°F once they have had time to adjust. Light frost won't harm these seedlings after these are hardened off. Warm-season crops such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, melons, cucumbers, and some herbs prefer warm nights, at least 60°F, but can't stand temperatures below 45°F even after hardened off.

**Transplanting Seedlings** – When transplanting your seedlings, or the seedlings bought at the garden center, choose a cloudy day with no wind and transplant in the late afternoon or evening to give your plants time to adjust without the additional challenge of the sun. Water the seedlings well after planting. **You can also cover your seedlings at night with a modified gallon-size plastic milk jug, known as a cloche.** This will protect your plants from wind, frost, rabbits, birds, and other critters. It will also trap sunlight and increase warmth which will encourage growth, much like a mini-greenhouse. Any food grade container made of translucent plastic works well for home gardeners and is a very thrifty solution. This works for tomato and pepper seedlings and any other frost-sensitive annuals. **How to make a milk jug cloche** - Cut the bottom out of the milk jug ON THREE SIDES. The 4th side will act as a flap to anchor the cloche. When you place the milk jug over your seedlings, fold the bottom out and away from the plant and anchor it with a rock or a brick. This keeps the milk jug from blowing away in the wind. Place the lids on the jugs at night to protect the plants from frost or very cold air. In the morning, remove the caps to allow the inside of the jug to dry and to allow the air to warm. Start those seedlings early, protected with the modified milk jugs and you'll be enjoying your tomatoes weeks before your neighbors!

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*My spirit was lifted and my soul  
nourished by my time  
in the garden. It gave me  
a calm connection with all  
of life, and an awareness  
that remains with me  
now, long after leaving  
the garden.* Nancy Ross



## Garden To Do List

### April



#### Garden:

Plant cool weather crops: peas, potatoes, onion sets, lettuce, broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower but resist warm season plants, like tomatoes and peppers, until middle of May.

Start seeds indoors that can be planted outside after our average frost-free date of May 15<sup>th</sup>

#### Perennials

Add new perennials to your garden – ones with both great foliage and blooms with a mix of bloom times for flowers all summer long.

Divide and transplant clumps of perennials just as new growth begins.

Apply a side dressing of a balanced fertilizer like **ferti-lome Gardeners Special fertilizer** to spring flowering bulbs.

Don't cut spring flowering bulb leaves for at least 8 weeks after blooms fade to recharge bulbs.

Plant pansy and violas for early spring color. Dusty miller, dianthus & alyssum take cooler temps too.

Install peony rings now to support garden peonies.

Spray emerging tulips with **Bonide Repels-All** to prevent chewing by wild critters.

#### Landscape

##### Apply Bonide

##### Aluminum Sulphate to

Blue hydrangeas in early April to ensure blue color in summer. Repeat in late May.

Clean up, trim, edge, fertilize and apply **Preen** if not done in March. Then apply **Round-up** directly onto weeds that are actively growing, being careful not to spray shrubs and perennials. Lastly, top-dress with a 1"-2" layer of **mulch**, over existing mulch.

Fertilize trees with tree spikes or **ferti-lome Tree and Shrub Food**.

#### Lawn

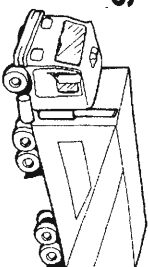
Repair bare spots, unless you've used a pre-emergence crabgrass preventer, which prevents grass seed from germinating, also.

Wait to spray broadleaf weeds until you have mowed 4 times. Since dandelions emerge earlier than other weeds, you'll kill the dandelions but miss other weeds.



## SPRING is here!

*We have perennials, trees, shrubs  
garden plants & garden supplies  
arriving by the truck load!*



#### Nursery Stock

- Trees – Shrubs – Evergreens
- **PLUS All Your Garden Plants**
- Vegetable & Flowering Plants
- Seed Potatoes & Onion Sets
- Packaged & Bulk Garden Seeds
- Asparagus Roots
- Strawberry Plants
- Fruit: Trees & Plants
- Perennials – Roses – Herbs
- Summer Blooming Bulbs

#### Other Garden Products

- Fertilizer – Grass Seed
- Fruit Tree Spray
- Animal Repellents

#### We also have

- Pottery & Statuary
- Bird Baths & Feeders
- Wild Bird Seed
- Patio Blocks & MORE

#### Arriving in Late April

- Berry Vines & Grape Vines
- Hanging Baskets
- Geraniums
- Combo Planters & MORE!
- Peat Moss – Potting Soil - Mulch
- Cow Manure - Decorative Stone
- Bagged Goods

## Plant a Tree!

### Arbor Day

### Celebration

3 Days ONLY!

April 23-47-25, 2020

**10% Off**

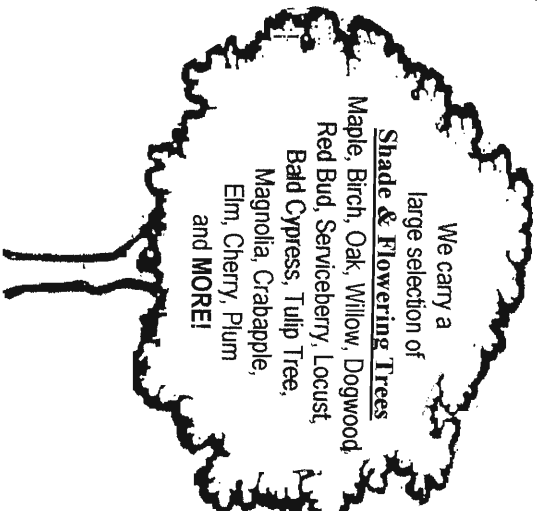
On all

**Potted**

**Shade,**

**Flowering &**

**Fruit Trees**



## New Leaf is OPEN!

During this time of COVID-19, both stores are **OPEN** as we are considered an "essential business". So, to keep you, and our employees safe, our policy right now is:

1. We are restricting the number of people that can be inside the stores at one time and they must put on gloves.
2. We can also assist you through a window or outside.
3. You may also call an order in, pay for it over the phone with a credit card, call us when you have arrived at our store and we will bring your order out to your car.
4. We also will deliver larger orders for a small fee. Call either store for details.

**Don't forget MOM  
on Mother's Day**

May 10, 2020

We'll have lots of beautiful things to choose from!

