



“From the Potting Shed”

Riverview Garden Club

April Helpful Hints

2025

April is National Gardening Month and a good time to get growing! Often Spring can't make up its mind whether it's here to stay or still has some Winter left, so it's best to have a spring garden to-do list ready for those good weather days to get out in the garden. Enjoy the spring!

Things to do in the garden this month...

Clean the Garden

- Clear your garden, lawn and flower borders of any fallen branches, leaves and debris so that you can prepare for the planting season.
- Get rid of old growth of herbaceous perennials and deciduous grass
- Weed your garden beds-it's much easier when weeds are small!
- Once you are through removing weeds, winter mulches, and debris, you can start digging and preparing your garden for planting, assuming that the soil is not too wet

Edge the Lawn and Beds

- Sharpen the edges of your lawn and borders
- This allows you to clearly divide the areas of flower beds, lawn and garden.

Prep the Soil

- Nourish your soil with compost or well-rotted manure, this feeds the beneficial microorganisms in the soil
- Applying nutrients to the soil makes it richer with the minerals and essential elements your plants need to grow.
- If you don't have compost or manure, apply a slow-release fertilizer specific to flowers and shrubs in beds and borders or vegetables for your vegetable garden or raised bed.
- Do not till deeply as this can bring up more weed seeds, just loosen the surface.

Maintain Compost Piles and Bins

Compost is very important to organically nourish your plants and soil without the need for synthetic fertilizers.

- Get your compost piles in order. Keep three of them – one to add to, one that is seasoning, and one that is ready to use.
- Add a mixture of anything organic including grass clippings, shredded paper, vegetable peelings, and dried brown leaves.
- Turn the compost once or twice in a month using a rake or pitchfork to keep the compost heap aerated.
- Screen the oldest pile and incorporate it into beds once soil is dry enough.

Planting

- Plant deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs, weather and soil conditions permitting
- Divide, plant and transplant perennials
- Use a fork with flat tines to separate and lift out root balls then separate the clumps.
- Clean up perennial foliage and replant the divisions in a suitable size hole with added compost.
- Water well after transplanting and then mulch.
- Sow seeds of hardy annuals in place in the garden
- Sow seeds of peas, carrots and radishes
- Start seed indoors for tomatoes and other summer crops
- Plant out seedlings of cauliflower, cabbage and broccoli if soil is workable
- Plant out seedlings of cool-season annuals, like pansies and snapdragons
- Plant roses
- Plant strawberries

Pruning and Fertilizing

- Complete removal of diseased, weak or crossing branches on trees and shrubs
- Complete rose pruning but wait until after flowering on climbers and ramblers
- Prune early spring-flowering shrubs immediately after flowers die
- Wait to prune evergreens, hedges and other shrubs until early summer
- Fertilize fruit trees and roses
- Fertilize perennials when you see 2 to 3” of new growth
- Fertilize bulbs as they finish blooming

Prep Garden Tools

- Make sure your irrigation supplies, tools, and equipment are cleaned, sharpened, and tuned up. They need to be ready to go when you are!

Lawn Maintenance

- If the lawn has dried out enough, rake up debris and thatch.
- Aerate areas that have been compacted.
- Complete lawn fertilization if not done in the fall
- Apply slow-release fertilizer on your lawn this early spring.
- After fertilizing, reseed all bare spots or damaged grass in your lawn and water well.

Grow Vegetables

- Continue outdoor sowing of cool-season crops including beets, peas, broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, lettuces, radishes
- If you started any of these vegetables indoors, start setting them out to harden them off on warmer days (above 50°F) and bring them in at night
- Start tomato seeds indoors early in the month
- Begin planting your favorite annual herbs

Add Color

- Fill containers and window boxes with pansies and Johnny-Jump-Ups to brighten your entryway, deck or patio

Resource:

New York Botanical Garden, Plant and Research Guides, “Spring Gardening Chores: April”

Happy Spring Gardening!