



**“From the Potting Shed”**  
Riverview Garden Club – April Helpful Hints  
2022

April is a transition month. 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. 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
- Do a lot of weeding in your garden.
- 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, if available.
- 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.

### **COMPOST THE GARDEN AREAS**

- 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 – one to add to, one that is seasoning, and one that is ready to use.
- Add a mixture of anything organic including grass clippings, paper, vegetable peelings, and 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.

### **PERENNIAL PLANT CARE**

- Divide and replant your perennials.
- Use a fork with flat tines to separate and lift out root balls then separate the clumps.
- Clean up the foliage and replant in a suitable size hole with added compost.
- Water well after transplanting and then mulch.

### **PREP YOUR 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.
- Fertilize if you did not do so in 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)
- Start tomato seeds indoors early in the month
- Begin planting your favorite annual herbs

### **ADD SOME COLOR**

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