



“From the Potting Shed”

Riverview Garden Club – April Helpful Hints

2023

April is National Gardening Month – a great time to return to our gardens as the weather permits. Here are some spring garden chores recommended by the New York Botanical Gardens specific to our northern New Jersey hardiness zones 6a – 6b.

Things to do this month...

Chores and Maintenance:

- As the temperature reaches above 50 degrees F for several days, start to carefully remove winter mulches and debris. This allows overwintering beneficial insects to “wake up” and get moving so they won’t be harmed as the debris is cleared away.
- Continue to dig beds in preparation for planting once the soil is workable
- Complete adding compost to planting bed soil
- Place peony supports when the stems are about 6 inches tall
- Cultivate planting beds and carefully remove weeds
- Remove mounded earth from roses
- Prepare bare-root and potted roses for planting; soak overnight in fish emulsion
- Continue to apply horticultural oil sprays to control insect pests on trees if temperature is over 40 degrees
- Test lawn soil and apply lime if warranted
- Edge and mulch planting beds

Planting:

- Plant deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs, weather and soil conditions permitting
- Plant and transplant perennials
- Sow seeds of hardy annuals in place in the garden
- Sow seeds of peas, carrots and radishes
- Start seed indoors for 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
- Re-seed bare lawn areas

Pruning/ Fertilizing:

- Complete removal of diseased, weak or crossing branches
- Complete rose pruning but wait until after flowering to prune climbers and ramblers
- Prune late flowering shrubs such as buddleia
- Prune early spring-flowering shrubs such as forsythia, azalea, lilacs 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
- Complete lawn fertilization if not done in the fall

Indoors:

- Continue to transplant houseplants which need repotting
- Continue to inspect for pests and control as needed
- Complete shaping leggy houseplants

Happy Gardening!