



Through the
Garden
Gate

April Gardening Tips and Reminders

April Gardening Tips and Reminders

In your garden

Color is everywhere this month! In April, you will see azaleas, rhododendrons, dogwoods, redbuds and magnolias all blooming.

Andromeda, flowering almond, camellia, daphne, forsythia, pussywillow, weigela, Harry Lauder's walking stick and spirea are other landscape plants that will provide interest in April.

Make certain to fertilize annuals, perennials and flowering shrubs and trees with a quality plant food and remember to feed your evergreens (hollies, boxwoods and yews) and deciduous trees (maples, oaks and ash) for overall plant growth and development.

New spring plantings will require a starter plant food at the time of planting. This will encourage root growth and help get the plant off to a vigorous start.

April is the time to plant fruit trees and grapes. Some fruit trees need a pollinator.

Apply preventative weed control before adding fresh mulch to your flower beds.

If you haven't already, make certain to prune roses and cut back liriopse and other ornamental grasses before the new growths begin.

April is also time to plant pansies, violas and primroses for early spring color in your landscape.

Fertilize bulbs with a slow-release fertilizer as they emerge. It is wise to start tuberous begonias and canna bulbs indoors to be ready for May planting.

Apply a quality weed control to your garden beds to prevent weeds from germinating.

Potted roses should already have arrived at your local nursery, so plant now for beautiful color all summer long.

You can plant gladiolus every week up to July 1st to enjoy flowers all summer and fall.

If you have a pond in your landscape, begin feeding your fish when the water temperature gets above 50 degrees. Prevent algae in your pond with floating barley bales.

Lawns

April is a great time to get your lawn in shape by liming, seeding, fertilizing and preventing crabgrass and other weeds.

Seed the lawn with a good quality grass seed that is suited for the conditions of your lawn. Fertilize your lawn with quality blended lawn foods. Make certain they contain slow-release nitrogen, sulfate of potash and Granusol Iron.

If needed, lime the lawn to raise soil pH. Lawns prefer a pH range of 6.2 - 6.8. If your tests show a level lower than 6.0, or you have not limed the lawn in the past two years, you should lime at the rate of 50 lb. of lime per 1,000 square feet of lawn area. This will raise the pH 1/2 point. If you need to apply more lime, wait six weeks between applications.

If you have not done so already, prevent crabgrass in the lawn by using the proper control.

Grub damage can be stopped this month by using any of a number of quality controls, especially in mid-late April to prevent grubs.

Houseplants

Feed your houseplants with a good quality indoor plant food. (water soluble powders and slow release granulars are best).

If needed, re-pot root bound houseplants to a larger pot utilizing a good quality potting mix. We have a variety of containers in a large variety of shapes and sizes. Visit the store for ideas in terra cotta; ceramic; terralyte and polystone.

Always check the leaves of your houseplants for insects or any other problems. If needed, apply the appropriate control for the problem. Visit your local nursery and take in a sample from your plant if you are not familiar with the problem and ask them to help diagnose.

*Through the
Garden
Gate*