

# MONTHLY GARDENING CHECKLIST

# April

April offers us some of the best gardening days of the entire year right alongside some of the most disheartening weather. But the resiliency of the April garden is something that should give us all hope—bulbs, buds, and blooms usually come through the cold unscathed, and they will spend each and every sunny day growing by leaps and bounds, making up for lost time! *In the Portland Metro Region and Vancouver, our average last frost date is April 15th.*



## FOR THE GARDEN

### Seasonal Color

- For containers:** Replenish with colorful annuals; planting soon will lead to full, beautiful pots this season, or grab a pre-planted container at one of our garden centers!
- For garden beds:** Cool-season annuals like Nemesia, Osteospermum, Bacopa, Calibrachoa, Snapdragons, and Geraniums; fill in gaps with 4-inch perennials
- Sow seeds** for Sweet Peas and Nasturtiums now; wait to plant Sunflowers until May.

### Planting & Maintenance

- Fertilize** roses, perennials, trees, shrubs, and established plantings with **G&B All Purpose**, **G&B Paradise Blend**, or **Portland Rose Society Organic Fertilizer** to feed plants and improve soil quality.
- Monitor rhododendrons/azaleas** towards end of April for lace bug hatching/damage—light green stippling on leaf tops; reddish brown wet spots on bottom of leaves.
- Monitor roses and fruit trees** for early signs of disease or pests; discuss treatment options with our experts!
- Protect tender shoots** from slugs: **Sluggo** or **Slug Magic**
- Prune early spring-flowering shrubs** after flowers fade: Camellias, Flowering Currant, Flowering Quince, Forsythia—tip back to control size and for deciduous shrubs, remove oldest canes at base of plant.

### Edible Gardening

- Plant vegetables:** Cabbage, Kale, Lettuce, Mustard, Pac Choi, Broccoli, Carrots, Cauliflower, Radish, Beets—sow seeds/starts in 2–3 week intervals for staggered harvest.
- Protect tender new shoots from slugs** with **Sluggo** or **Sluggo Plus**.
- Protect from insects and mild frosts** with frost blanket like **Harvest Guard**.



## FOR THE LAWN

- Overseed bare spots** or thicken up thin lawns as temperatures warm up. If you use a weed and feed, it will be most effective this month.
- Fertilize** with a well-balanced, organic lawn fertilizer like **G&B Organic Lawn Fertilizer**.



## IN THE SHED

- Check on tender plants in storage**, like overwintered Fuchsias, Abutilon, and Geraniums; slowly bring them out from protection as the weather warms.
- Keep tender/young plant protection items handy** for late freezes: cloches, cold frames, burlap, frost blankets
- Never run out of Sluggo!**



## INDOOR GARDENING

- Reposition and rotate houseplants** to optimize light exposure as sun's angle changes and light shifts.
- Increase watering frequency and fertilization** to support new growth; feed with **Joyful Dirt** and topdress with **Worm Castings**.
- Pinch back or trim houseplants** to encourage fullness and redirect new growth.
- Take cuttings** from healthy plants to share with friends!



## JUST FOR FUN

- Take photos of your favorite daffodils and tulips** as you walk through the neighborhood—set a reminder to look for them as dormant bulbs for sale in September!
- Make a terrarium** to honor Earth Day on April 22nd.
- Plant a tree** to celebrate Arbor Day on April 30th.
- Keep feeding the birds;** clean your birdfeeder weekly.