



MONTHLY GARDENING TIPS

APRIL



Welcome to the first full month of spring! We've got warmer days, but we can still have cool, even frosty, nights (average last frost date for Willamette Valley is April 15th). It's not yet time for tomatoes, but there is still so much to enjoy during this month.

FOR FRESH COLOR



Many cool-season annuals can be planted in April, especially during the second half. Watch for early shipments of geraniums, bacopa, and petunias to **replenish containers**. Planting soon will lead to full, beautiful pots this spring and summer.

In a rush or don't want to make your own? Stop into one of our garden centers and grab a pre-planted container!

Fertilize spring bulbs again after flowering; remove seed heads as they form, but allow foliage to turn yellow and die back naturally.

Sow seeds for sweet peas and nasturtiums now; wait to plant sunflowers until May.

FOR THE LAWN & LANDSCAPE



As temperatures warm up, it's okay to **overseed bare spots or thicken up a thin lawn**. If you use a weed and feed, this is the month it will be most effective.

Fertilize this month: Roses, perennials, trees, shrubs, lawns, and established plantings. We recommend *G&B All-Purpose Fertilizer*, *Paradise Blend*, or *G&B Lawn Food*—this will not only feed your plants, it will also improve the soil in which they live with beneficial microbes and fungi.

Pest watch: Monitor rhododendrons and azaleas towards the end of April for signs of lace bug hatching/damage. Monitor roses and fruit trees for early signs of disease or pests. Stop in to discuss treatment options with one of our garden experts!

BASIC PRUNING LIST



Prune early spring-flowering shrubs after flowers fade. Tip back to control size and remove some of the oldest canes at the base of the plant (e.g. forsythia, flowering quince, ribes/flowering currant).

If you have not yet done so, **prune your roses** now too!

FOR THE EDIBLE GARDEN



Plant your salad garden: greens, radishes, carrots, herbs, potatoes, beets

It's also time for: broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, kale, and cabbage; sow seeds or plant starts in 2 to 3 week intervals for a staggered harvest

Protect tender new shoots from slugs with *Sluggo* or *Sluggo Plus*; protect from insects and light frost with a floating row cover or *Harvest Guard*.

Wait until May for warm season veggies like tomatoes and peppers—it's still too cool for plants that prefer warm nights!

IN THE GARDEN SHED



Check on overwintered fuchsias and other tender plants in storage; slowly bring them out from protection as the weather warms.

Keep these items handy for late freezes and young plant protection: cloches, cold-frames, burlap, and frost blankets

Never run out of *Sluggo*!

FOR THE INDOORS



As the sun's angle changes in the sky, **reposition and/or rotate** your houseplants to optimize lighting.

As spring growth resumes, **increase watering frequency and fertilization**. If root-bound, **repot or refresh** top layer of soil.

Pinch back or lightly trim plants as needed.

JUST FOR FUN



Plant a tree to celebrate *Arbor Day* (April 30).

Make a terrarium in honor of *Earth Day* (April 22). Observe the cycles of nature as you tend to your tiny world under glass.