

April



GARDENING CHECKLIST and garden tips

April is the month that the drab of winter transforms into a palette of color in east Idaho. Blooming daffodils, tulips, forsythia, and an assortment of perennials all announce the arrival of spring.

Town & Country's plant doctors are available during store hours to answer your gardening questions. For accurate diagnosis, please bring in a sample (preferred) or a picture of the problem.

Vegetables

- Enjoy **herbs** in pots in a windowsill. Plant them outside in May.
- Remove any spent vines and corn stalks from garden spot if not completed last fall.
- Add **Soil Enhancer** or compost as well as **sulfur**, and rototil into soil to prepare seed bed.
- Cool weather crops (lettuce, spinach, peas, broccoli, root crops) can be planted in late April.
- Use **Garden Inoculant** when planting peas for maximum success.
- Tomatoes may be planted in late April in a hoop house or in **Wall o' Water** plant protectors.
- Place a **floating row cover** over your crops so your seeds will germinate quicker, and the birds won't make a meal of them. Floating row covers also eliminate cabbage worms and root maggots on cabbage and root crops.

Fruit

- Prune and thin raspberry plants to clean up last year's dead canes.
- Apply **manure** and **soil sulfur** to berry patches if not done last fall.
- Apply **Casoron** granules to raspberries before new canes emerge to prevent weeds.
- Plant bare root or potted **raspberries, strawberries, and fruit trees**.
- Spray mature fruit trees with **Hi Yield Dormant Spray** to kill overwintering insects and eggs.
- Spray pear and apple trees with **Fertilome Fire Blight Spray** twice during blossom period.

Lawns

- Rake matted grass as snow recedes to prevent snow mold from damaging your lawn.
- Turn on sprinkler system and make repairs as needed.
- Apply **Natural Guard Soil Activator** (Step-1) to your lawn to help decompose lawn thatch and green up your lawn. This can be done anytime in March or April.
- Ask about our **4-Step Lawn Program** for the greenest, healthiest lawn in the neighborhood.
- Seed new lawns using **Crook's Premium Lawn Seed**. Apply **T&C Seed & Sod Starter** at time of planting. Ask for our free Lawn Planting Guide for complete details.
- Spray dandelions with **Fertilome Weed Free Zone** before they bloom.

Roses

- Remove winter protection from roses when new shoots are just beginning to emerge.
- Prune canes to 8" on hybrid teas. Remove dead canes.
- Plant dormant roses. They love getting started in the cooler weather.
- Apply **Fertilome Rose Food w/Systemic** to feed and protect roses from insect damage.

Flowers

- Plant **Sweet Pea** seed and **wildflower** seed now.
- Plant **perennial** flowers (the ones that come back each year). Frost won't bother them.
- Hardy annuals such as **pansies**, petunias, alyssum, snapdragons can be planted in late April.
- Plant **summer bulbs** like gladiolas, lilies, and dahlias for beautiful summer color.
- Plant up your porch pots with cold hardy flowers. Ask for our tip sheet on **hardy annuals**.
- Prune back dead stalks on perennial flowers and ornamental grasses to the ground.
- Transplant, divide, and relocate perennials as needed. Share some with a neighbor.
- Fertilize established bulbs and perennials with **T&C Fruit & Flower Food**.

Trees & Shrubs

- Plant potted and bare root trees and shrubs. Use **Root Stimulator and Soil Activator**.
- Prune most trees now. Skip maples and birches until summer to avoid excessive bleeding.
- Cut back butterfly bushes, blue mist spirea, Russian sage, potentilla, spirea, and other summer-blooming shrubs now.
- Fertilize trees and shrubs with **Save-A-Tree** or **T&C Tree & Shrub Food**.
- Apply **Fertilome Systemic Insect Drench** or **Acecap Systemic Implants** to prevent insect damage to your trees and shrubs for the entire growing season.
- Spray dormant trees with **Hi Yield Dormant Spray** to kill overwintering insects and eggs.
- Spray quaking aspen with **Fertilome Systemic Fungicide** to prevent fungal leaf spot.
- Examine staked trees and loosen or remove ties around trees if necessary to prevent injury.
- Check for evidence of borers in your aspen, ash, and other trees. Small holes, possibly with leaking sap and/or sawdust are signs of problems. See our plant doctors for solutions.

Birds and Wildlife

- Clean and fill your **bird baths** for arriving robins and songbirds.
- Clean your bird houses before the new birds arrive.
- Continue to feed birds with suet, black oil sunflower, and high quality **wild bird seed**.
- Plant shrubs and flowers to attract, feed, and provide cover for birds and hummingbirds.

Ponds

- Remove as much sludge, leaves, and debris from pond as possible. Don't drain and scrub clean. This will kill beneficial bacteria and destroy the ecological balance in the pond.
- Bacteria such as **Microbe Lift** should be added on a regular basis to keep pond clear.
- **Test the pH, Ammonia, Nitrite and Nitrate** levels. Continue testing weekly until your system has been running for 4-6 weeks and has stabilized, then check biweekly.
- Begin feeding fish when water temperature reaches 50 degrees. (Check temp. in the a.m.)
- Hardy plants that over-wintered at the bottom of the pond can be moved back up to their growing locations and proper depths.
- Divide and repot your water lilies and marginal plants as needed.
- Fertilize pond plants with **Aquatic Tabs** for healthier, more vigorous plants.
- Clean and inspect **biological filters and skimmers**. Don't use chlorinated water as this will kill beneficial bacteria. Check filter pads and replace as necessary.

Always read and follow label directions when using any garden chemical or fertilizer.

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