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 rototill 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.