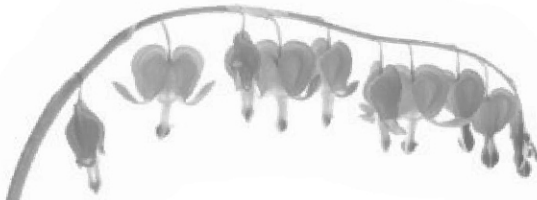


Spring To Do

Early Spring Gardening Checklist

- **Clean up** - Remove any leaves and debris that may have accumulated over the winter, cut back any remaining grasses and perennials (except tree peonies and Yucca's) and remove any mounded soil or mulch from your roses.
- **Cut Back** Annabelle Hydrangea to the ground. Other Hydrangea varieties need a proper pruning and the remaining flower heads sheared off.
- **Prune** out any damaged, broken wood from your trees and shrubs. Pruning can be done anytime before bud break, especially on roses. Prune spring blooming forsythia, lilacs, azaleas, magnolias, etc. after they finish blooming.
- **Heaving** - Any plants that may have heaved out of the ground (particularly Coral Bells) should be replanted as soon as possible. Carefully lift the plant, re-dig the planting hole and replant.
- **Fertilize** - With *Start N Grow* fertilizer (19-6-12.) Or use organic *Sustane* (8-2-4) Apply to all trees, shrubs and perennial beds after the ground thaws. Follow label instructions. *Sustane* Fertilizer is a good organic alternative. Use *Azalea, Rhododendron & Camellia Food* - slow release acid fertilizer for blueberries, rhododendrons and azaleas . Apply *Rose Tone* fertilizer to rose bushes.
- **Bonemeal** - Apply to all blooming plants, bulbs, perennial beds, shrubs, ornamental and fruit trees. Bonemeal promotes stronger root growth, good flower color, and sturdy stems.
- **Elemental Sulfur** - Apply to acid-loving plants such as blueberries, azaleas and rhododendrons. Gently work into the top 1" of soil around the plants. This helps to keep the pH lowered. This product is NOT a fertilizer.
- **Dormant Oil Spray** - Apply to scale infected fruit trees and bushes. Needs to be done in very early spring.
- **Spray Animal Deterrents** - Do this early in the season before the animals damage spring buds. Repeat applications as recommended on the manufacturer's label to keep animals at bay. Alternating between two products works well.



Early Spring Plants:

- **Bulbs:** Scilla, Hyacinth, Daffodils, Tulips (Plant in Fall)
- **Woodland Wildflowers:** Bloodroot, Trilliums, Troutlily, Ferns
- **Perennials:** Bleeding Hearts, Primrose, Lenten Rose, Sweet Woodruff
- **Shrubs:** Forsythia, Magnolia, Azalea, Flowering Almond/Plum, Pussy Willow
- **Trees:** Crabapples, Lilacs, Serviceberry

Tips:

To avoid soil compaction, wait until the ground has dried out before walking on lawns and flowerbeds.

Enjoy the early Spring!
It is over too soon.

For more information - Turn page...



Spring To Do

Garden Maintenance

Maintenance is an ongoing process, just like maintaining your house or your vehicle. Some tasks need to be done on a regular basis, while others need only be done a few times per year, or even only once every couple of years. Your landscape, like your house, is an investment. Some of the jobs in the landscape are indeed chores, while others, with a little creativity and imagination, can be fun.

Divide some of the tasks among family members; do others as a family project. That way everyone will have a sense of accomplishment and a feeling of pride in a job well done. And everyone will have more time to spend enjoying being in your outdoor living space. Keep a photographic journal of your landscape through the growing season. It can be a huge help when it comes time to make changes in the garden.

Once you start on a task, **take occasional breaks to stretch**, even if it's just to step back and see the progress you're making and how much better your landscape is starting to look.

Keep in mind that not all tasks or products as described here will apply to every landscape or garden situation.

Walk your yard with pencil and paper in hand and make an assessment of how your landscape came through the winter. Check for snow or animal damage to trees and shrub.

Remove Tree Protectors from trunks of young trees.

Lawn Maintenance Checklist

- **Fungal diseases** - Snow mold is the most common spring lawn ailment. Thoroughly rake the affected area with a leaf rake and discard the debris.
- **Fertilize** - Apply *Crabgrass Preventer Plus Lawn Food* or *Organic Natural Guard* to the lawn. Add *Soil Activator* to lawns growing in poor soils.
- **Animal Damage** - Vole damage will be seen as a network of small trails around the yard. Simply rake the areas where trails are evident.
- **Weed Control** - Apply *Weed Free Zone* for broadleaf weed control anytime between mid May to mid June as soon as you notice weeds appearing.



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