

## April Lawn & Garden To-Do List

### Trees and Shrubs (still dormant)

- Prune trees and nonflowering shrubs.
- Plant bare-root, balled-and-burlapped, and container-grown trees and shrubs.
- Plant roses just as the buds swell.
- Apply dormant spray.

### Perennials and Bulbs (before last frost)

- Cut back dead foliage on perennials and ornamental grasses.
- Plant, divide, and transplant perennials.
- Gradually remove winter mulch from perennials when they begin to grow.
- Fertilize spring-blooming bulbs (daffodils, hyacinths, etc.) after blooming.
- Give tender bulbs a head start by potting indoors.

### Lawn (before last frost)

- Lightly fertilize cool-season lawn grasses such as fescue and bluegrass.
- Begin post emergent weed control.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide or corn gluten to prevent weeds.
- Top-dress lawns and patch bare spots.
- Test soil pH and add lime (if acidic) or sulfur (if alkaline) following package instructions.
- Resume warm-weather watering schedule once grass begins growing.

### Fruits and Vegetables (before last frost)

- Plant fruit trees.
- Till your vegetable garden as soon as the soil is dry and crumbly.
- Add amendments, and let the soil settle for about a week.
- Grow cool-season vegetables (spinach, lettuce, broccoli, beets, radishes, peas, carrots).
- Plant asparagus, rhubarb, and berries.
- Start seeds indoors for summer vegetables and annual herbs.
- Plant perennial herbs such as rosemary, thyme, and lavender.

### Annuals and Containers (before last frost)

- Deadhead flowers to promote more blooms.
- Clean and sanitize summer containers, and plan your design for this summer.

### Houseplants

- Repot, prune, and feed your houseplants.
- Address insect or disease problems immediately.
- Give a little more water to cacti and succulents that are blooming or actively growing.
- Move houseplants gradually outdoors once night temperatures stay above 55° F.
- If you grouped houseplants in a warm spot for the winter, move them back.
- Care for an Easter lily by keeping it in a cool spot with indirect, bright light.

### Cleanup and Maintenance

- Clean water features and lawn ornaments.
- Clean out, inspect, and repair bird houses, for the spring nesting season.
- Put out plenty of food for hungry migrating birds!
- Watch for hummingbirds on their journey north.
- Address any drainage problems.
- Give your yard a good spring cleaning to eliminate hiding places for insects and critters.
- Add trellises, stakes, and supportive structures to top-heavy plants before they need them.
- Start feeding your pond fish when water temperatures are above 50° F.
- Apply mulch. Consider adding an organic weed preventer, such as corn gluten first.
- Check out irrigation systems once freezing weather has passed.
- Postpone garden work if the soil is soggy.
- Spread and incorporate winter compost, and start a spring compost pile.
- Test soil to determine what amendments are needed.