

April Gardening Checklist



Last Frost Predicted: April 4th, 2011

PLANT: It's time to plant! April is a great month to plant. Add trees, shrubs, evergreens and perennials. If you felt your spring display was scant, add blooming, potted bulb plants now. Most will return again next year, and pump up your spring garden. After the threat of frost has past, plant your annuals for instant color in containers and in your garden. I like annuals alongside my sidewalk and around my mailbox to supplement the perennials planted there.

PLANT VEGETABLES: Vegetable gardens have come back in vogue and many are seen in suburban neighborhoods today. Tomato plants are a staple that even a beginner gardener can plant and enjoy. Don't have a yard? Try growing a tomato plant in a large container on your back deck in a sunny location. You can also plant cantaloupe, honeydew, cucumbers, summer squash and watermelon this month.

TRANSPLANT: Spring is the best time to transplant trees, shrubs, evergreens and perennials in the wrong place or in need of more room. Replant immediately at the same depth and keep watered.

DIVIDE AND MULTIPLY: Divide your bulbs and other perennials, preferably ones that flower after mid-June for optimum performance this year. Early spring blooms are best divided in early fall.

PRUNE: Prune early-spring flowering trees and shrubs right after they're done blooming. Shear evergreen hedges and prune roses.

WEED, FEED & MULCH: Make up your beds by weeding, adding organic matter into the soil, and fertilizing. Cover with a 2-4" mulch spread.

IRRIGATE: Check your irrigation system. Turn on irrigation system and let it run through each zone. Walk around each zone and check spray pattern, proper rotation of sprinkler heads, and coverage. Set controller for automatic watering. Replace the controller back-up battery if necessary.

