



Garden Tasks

Number 0001

April 4, 2006



January

- Inspect stored bulbs and discard the bad ones.
- Clean, repair and sharpen garden tools. Wipe them with oil.
- Plan gardens for this year. Look at ways to add more winter interest and improve habitat for the birds.
- Try forcing some amaryllis and paperwhite narcissus.
- Order vegetable and flower seeds.
- Start slow germinating seeds, e.g. geranium and begonia.
- Inspect and treat houseplants for white fly, spider mites, and aphids.

February

- Take stem cuttings of geraniums and fuchsias.
- Plant impatiens, peppers and eggplants indoors.
- Prune fruit and shade trees except maple and birch.
- Check out the dates of garden shows.

March

- Visit your local greenhouse.
- Order summer-flowering bulbs.
- Prune summer-flowering shrubs (e.g. Hydrangea)
- Plant flower and vegetable seeds indoors.

- Prune grapevines.
- Start summer flowers and tender perennials (tuberous begonias, cannas, callas and caladiums in pots).
- Loosen packed mulch and press back frost heaved perennials.
- Cut some spring flowering shrub branches for forcing inside.

April

- Prepare annual beds for planting. Incorporate a generous amount of compost and other organic material.
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees and pest-prone shrubs (non-freezing temperatures, before buds open).
- Cut down ornamental grasses. Remove all debris from perennial beds.
- Top dress perennial borders with compost.
- Gradually remove protection on rose bushes; prune and apply dormant oil before the buds break. Move dormant bushes if needed.
- Direct seed cool weather vegetable seeds (peas, spinach) and frost resistant annuals (larkspur, sweet peas).
- Repair lawn with compost, seed, rake and fertilize (late April early May).
- Plant/move shrubs, trees, and hedges.
- Mow the lawn only if necessary
- Begin to move ornamental grasses and perennials
- Setup water collection system
- Open Pond

May

- Harden off seedlings.
- Treat for slugs, aphids, and blackspot if necessary.
- Deadhead tulips and daffodils, leaving the foliage to nourish the bulb and to die back naturally.
- Take notes and photos of bulb plantings for later changes.
- Plant tender summer-flowering bulbs (glads, cannas, and dahlias).
- Check trees for tent caterpillars and other insects.
- Stake and tie trees, shrubs and vines as required.
- Cage peonies.

May (continued)

- Wait until the last week of May to transplant tender flowers (petunias, impatiens etc.) and vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, etc.)
- Weed gardens and apply mulch.
- Top dress lawns with compost and hand dig weeds whenever possible.
- Seed flowering cabbage/kale outdoors.

June

- Plant annuals and tender perennials.
- Deadhead flowers after blooming.
- Pinch back mums, snapdragons, asters, dahlia and other late bloomers.
- Prune evergreens and hedges if necessary.
- Mulch using grass clippings or compost to conserve moisture and control weeds.
- Thin out crowded vegetables and annuals.
- Irrigate lawns and gardens as required.
- Stake/cage dahlias, tomatoes, gladiolas, etc.
- Seed fast growers such as calendula, cosmos, lavatera, and marigolds directly into the garden.
- Prepare cuttings of shrubs for propagation.
- Prune shrubs and trees after flowering.
- Weed and water as necessary.
- Move houseplants outdoors to a protected location.

July

- Finish pruning spring-flowering shrubs and evergreens.
- Stake plants that tend to fall over (Delphiniums, Euphorbia, and tall Sedums) and pinch back as necessary.
- Fertilize vegetable, annuals and roses.
- Raise cutting height of mower blade.
- Pinch back annuals to make bushier.
- Cut out old raspberry canes after fruiting.
- Mow, weed and water as necessary.
- Trim back strawberry plants after fruiting.
- Transplant ornamental cabbage and kale.
- Turn compost.
- Deadhead and trim perennials as necessary

August

- Plant fall vegetables (spinach, lettuce, etc.)
- Keep compost moist.
- Trim and divide irises. Treat for iris borer.
- Prune climbing roses.
- Spray shrubs and perennials for powdery mildew control.
- Water wisely and weed as necessary.
- Plant fall-flowering perennials.
- Make a garden structure.
- Order spring-flowering bulbs.
- Dry flowers and herbs.

September

- Bring in houseplants before it gets too cold.
- Take cuttings from geraniums and coleus.
- Renovate perennial border or divide perennials.
- Divide and move peonies and oriental poppies.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs.
- Prepare and seed new lawns.
- Plant new shrubs and evergreens.
- Fertilize and aerate lawns as required.
- Water all shrubs and evergreens well.

October

- Dig, dry and store summer-flowering bulbs and tubers.
- Prepare new garden beds. Incorporate nearly completed compost.
- Put ponds to bed.
- Cut off dead foliage particularly around hostas or lilies where pests can over-winter. Leave ornamental grasses.
- Continue to plant spring flowering bulbs.
- Rake leaves from lawn and garden and add to reduced compost pile.
- Plant amaryllis for Christmas bloom.
- Remove and distribute almost finished compost and gather leaves and add to compost pile.
- Seed new lawns.

November

- Fertilize lawn.
- Make sure evergreens, shrubs and young trees are well watered for winter.
- Protect young trees from rodents.
- Plant some spring bulbs in pots for forcing.
- Store tools, hoses and other garden equipment and ornaments for the winter.

December

- Watch for bugs on houseplants (white flies, spider mites, and aphids).
- Protect rose bushes with plastic cones or by adding soil or compost just before the ground freezes.
- Apply mulch to tender perennials just as the ground starts to freeze.
- Protect pyramidal evergreens, rhododendrons and other shrubs using burlap screens.
- Cut branches for winter decorations.
- Order seed catalogues.