

APRIL GARDEN PROJECTS

Spring is finally here. What a beautiful time of year with the rhododendrons, magnolias, camellias, forsythia, daffodils and tulips reaching their peak of beauty.

There are a lot of chores you can do now to help the garden look it's best the rest of the season.

Plant fruits and berries- spring is a great time to select and plant fruit trees and berry plants. Local nurseries have their best selections of both types of plants now. All types of fruits and berries do best when planted in full sun.

Vegetables - It's time to really get serious about the vegetable garden. April is a great month to plant your perennial vegetables like asparagus, rhubarb, horseradish etc. It's also time to plant peas, carrots, beets, spinach, cauliflower, kale, cabbage and lettuces. Hold off on beans, corn, tomatoes, squash and cucumbers until the weather and the soil are warmer and after our plant sale!

Root crops like potatoes, radishes, parsnip, leeks and onions can be planted anytime.

Companion planting - if you are not sure which veggies should share a garden bed, read "Carrots love Tomatoes" published by Garden Ways Books. It's a reprint of a book called "Secrets of Companion Planting for Successful Gardening".

Summer flowering bulbs - April is the month to plant summer flowering bulbs like gladiolas, lilies and dahlias. Mix some bulb fertilizer, processed manure and peat moss into the planting soil and put the stakes for dahlias into the ground next to the tuber when you plant so that you don't injure the tuber later.

Weed, weed, weed - Get the chick weed, bind weed etc. while they are young and hopefully not flowering yet. Leave the dandelions alone, they are some of the bees' earliest food. Eat the leaves for a nutritious salad.

Slugs - go after the slugs early morning and at twilight when they are out and feasting.

Have fun, breath in the fresh air, especially after a good April shower, listen to the birds and the frogs and give thanks for the sun's return.