

Landscape April Tips

April Plant Hints

The days are getting longer and we may still see a few snow flakes. However, when the weather stays above 45 degrees, apply a dormant oil spray to shrubs, perennials and trees to kill the first generation of insects.

April is a good time to prune out any blackened areas on your rose bushes – cut on a 45 degree angle and thin out the center of rose bushes. This will increase air circulation to the center if the plant.

Clean out bird baths and bird houses. Clean hanging containers and flower pots in 1 part bleach and 10 parts water to kill ant diseases in the pots.

When the soil is dry enough to crumble in your hand, divide fall-blooming perennials like chrysanthemums and asters. If you don't have space for the additional plants, you can heel them in at garden plots #4 and #5 for your neighbors to use. If you need help in dividing perennials, ask a relative or contact the Information Center for assistance.

If you are able, apply granular fertilizer 10-10-10 or 10-15-10 around perennials, shrubs and trees, but first clean the beds around your home of dead twigs and leaves.

When candles form on your Mugo Pines, break them in half in order to keep the plant's compact form.

Don't put your houseplants outdoors too soon, but wait until the night temperature is above 55 degrees and there is no longer a danger of a light frost.

Garden Hints

When the soil crumbles from your hand, add some compost/manure or sand to break up the clay particles when turning over the soil in your garden plot.

It is best to wait until the middle of May when the soil is warmer to set out warm weather plants such as tomatoes and to plant cucumber, squash, corn, beets and green bean seeds. If you have questions, contact Dave Crudele.

'Crockett's Victory Garden' by James Underwood Crockett; 'Month by Month Gardening in Ohio' by Denny McKeown; 'Garden Gate e-notes'