

Basic Gardening Tips



April

- ❖ Begin edging your flowerbeds when the ground thaws.
- ❖ Get your soil tested.
- ❖ Transplant shrubs, trees, and plants before they leaf out.
- ❖ Clean your garden tools if you did not do this earlier.
- ❖ All spring bulbs should be up and growing now. When you see the flower stalk emerging from the foliage, it's time to fertilize. Use a special bulb formulation fertilizer. Fertilize all perennials.
- ❖ Clean out your birdhouses if you did not do this last month.
- ❖ Divide most perennials once they've sent up significant foliage at least a couple of inches tall. Divide them if they are getting crowded (floppy stems, reduced blooms, a dead spot in the middle) or you simply want more plants. For example, sedum "Autumn Joy" needs to be divided about every other year to prevent flopping. Siberian irises usually need dividing every three years or they start to grow in a circle around a dead center.
- ❖ Finish up most pruning this month, except for spring-blooming trees and shrubs. Prune them immediately after they have finished blooming.
- ❖ Plant pots, window boxes, and containers with cool-season flowers that can withstand frost and even snow. Pansies are a favorite. Deadhead spent flower heads on spring-blooming bulbs to direct their energy back to their roots so they can build vigor for next year. Also deadhead fading flowers on other plants.
- ❖ Continue your winter cleanup of your lawn and flowerbeds; remove leaves and debris.
- ❖ Clear out debris from the bottom of water gardens and add it to your compost heap.
- ❖ Start feeding fish in your pond when the water temperature is 50 degrees.

