



APRIL Bloomers:



PERENNIALS: Heath (*Erica*) - Hyacinth - Rock Cress (*Arabis*) - Basket of Gold (*Aurinia*) - Leopardbane (*Doronicum*) - Spurge (*Euphorbia*) - Hellebore (*Helleborus*) - Dead Nettle (*Lamium*) - Creeping Phlox (*Phlox subulata*) - Lungwort (*Pulmonaria*) - Periwinkle (*Vinca*) - Violets (*Viola*)

SHRUBS & VINES: Early Forsythia (*Forsythia*) - Japanese Andromeda (*Pieris*) - Common Forsythia (*Forsythia*) - 'Cornell Pink' Azalea - Spicebush (*Lindera*) - Shadblow (*Amelanchier*) - Star Magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*) - Sandcherry (*Prunus cistena*) - PJM Rhododendron

TREES: Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) - Birch (*Betula*) - Katsura Tree (*Cercidiphyllum*) - Redbud (*Cercis*) - Parrotia - Weeping Cherry (*Prunus subhirtella 'Pendula'*) - Sargent Cherry (*Prunus sargentii*)

Mid-APRIL Gardening Checklist:



PERENNIAL GARDEN:

- Work in limestone, sand & large amounts of organic matter to **improve structure of heavy or clayey soils.**
- Fertilize perennial garden** with a fertilizer high in phosphorus (ie. 5-10-5 or Flowertone) - phosphorus promotes good flower & root development; for vigorous, healthy plants.

ROSE CARE:

- Cut the dead (browned) portions of rose canes** back to a bud on the green area of each cane. When pruning roses, remove the 3 D's: dead, damaged & diseased wood. Then get rid of all crossing & weak branches.
- Dig & divide miniature roses** while they are still dormant.

ANNUALS & VEGGIES:

- Work in one inch layer of **compost to improve poor garden soils.**
- Start tomato seeds indoors** in a fine seed starting soil or vermiculite in a seed starting kit with a clear plastic dome. Every 5 days, spray-mist warm water over the soil, returning the plastic in place. Seeds should sprout in 9-10 days.

TREES & SHRUBS:

- PRUNING TIPS AFTER A SNOWY WINTER:** This winter may have left your shrubs and evergreens bent, mis-sharpened and broken. Proper pruning will help. What to prune? First cut off any broken branches. The cuts should be made close to the supporting branch or just above a bud. Then, after the broken branches are off, shape the remaining bush to maintain the natural habit of growth of the shrub. Trimming while still dormant will stimulate strong shoot growth. If, what's left is totally sad, replace the shrub with a new, lush plant from Millane's.
- Apply deer repellent** to shrubs, small trees & emerging perennials.
- Top-dress landscape beds with bark mulch** for a neat clean look, to help hold moisture & prevent weeds. Keep mulch a few inches away from the bark of trees.
- Apply horticultural oil when 1/2 inch of new growth is showing on **trees & shrubs that had mites**, scale or aphids last year. Read & follow all label directions.
- PLANT A TREE!** Millane's Garden Center has hundreds in all sizes. Make planting holes for trees & shrubs twice the diameter of the root ball. Set plants slightly higher than ground level. Trees get smothered by: a) preventing oxygen & carbon dioxide exchange in bark cells below the soil level; b) constricting the growth of the trunk; c) drowning the roots with too much water by preventing oxygen from reaching them. Keep in mind the ultimate size of a plant when deciding where to plant it.
- Spring flowering shrubs bloom on the previous year's growth.**
- Fertilize trees & shrubs** which had been stressed by drought, insect or disease problems.
- Lilacs love lime** & will not bloom if soils are too acidic. Apply limestone around lilacs every few years.

LAWN CARE:

- Time to start a new lawn or re-seed old lawns.** Grass roots like 4" of good topsoil with organic matter. Cultivate lightly, rake out weeds & roots. Rake smooth. Use a good quality seed & starter fertilizer. Protect with straw for moisture retention.

HOME & PATIO:

- Feed houseplants** with a general purpose house plant fertilizer.