

ROCKIN' E COUNTRY STORE & GARDEN CENTER'S
2024 GARDENING TIPS & SUGGESTIONS CALENDAR



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**THIS CALENDAR ONLY GIVES APPROXIMATE DATES. PLEASE ADJUST YOUR SCHEDULE ACCORDING TO
THE WEATHER CONDITIONS.**

January is a quiet month for most gardeners. The flurry of the holiday season has passed, but the flurry of the weather is still a real threat. Take advantage of this time to enjoy some indoor gardening activities.

Long nights and short days bring out the urge for us to wait out the worst of winter weather. However, there are still plenty of gardening projects that may need to be addressed.

Feed the birds that may not be able to find food due to snow on the ground. Birds are attracted to fresh, unfrozen water. Wild birds need a continuous supply of fresh, clean water at all times of the year. During the summer, unfrozen water is just as important.

In the event of heavy snow, be sure to shake or brush off the snow from the branches of your evergreens and shrubs. The light fluffy snow poses no real threat, but if it should become wet and frozen, the weight dramatically increases. The weight may snap the branches.

In the event of little, or no snow, be sure to water your plants occasionally. Newly planted shrubs should be monitored closely, since their root system may not be completely established. Plants under the eaves, and broadleaf evergreens may also need a little extra attention during warm, windy, or dry weather conditions.

Forsythia, Pussy Willow, Crabapple, Flowering Pear, and Cherry branches can be cut and brought into the house for forcing. The warmth will bring early blossoms. Place cut stems in a vase of water and replace water every 4 days.

Dust on houseplant foliage can clog the leaf pores, so clean with a damp cloth, or a quick shower under the tap. On cold nights, close curtains/blinds to keep houseplants warm. 1/4 turn each week to keep them uniform.

Make sure your plants have sufficient humidity. Set on a tray with pebbles and water or set a cup of water nearby. Allow tap

water to sit overnight so the fluorine and chlorine gases can dissipate before using on your plants. Do not use "soft water" to water your plants.

If you plan to keep your poinsettia through the summer, be sure to fertilize it regularly, put it in a well lighted area, and be careful not to over water.

When one amaryllis blossom stem fades, remove it. If the bulb is large, it may send up another flower stem. Fertilize it regularly and do not remove the leaves, if you would like to keep it. Plant it outside as soon as the weather stays warm, and bring it back inside in the fall.

Drain all the gas, or add gas stabilizer to your power tools during the winter. Spray your snow shovel with pam or mineral oil, to help keep snow from sticking to it.

When pruning diseased branches, sterilize tools with one part bleach and nine part water solution between cuts. Dry and rub lightly with oil at the end of the day to prevent rusting.

Start begonia bulbs and geranium seeds. Start a few very early tomato plants if you have room. Plant an early crop of onion and broccoli seed indoors. Plant them outside in March. Keep a frost cloth handy just in case.

Be careful using ice melters on cement and around your shrubs. Too much can ruin concrete and kill plants. Use them sparingly. Ammonium sulphate fertilizer melts ice, but damages concrete. Urea melts ice if the temperature isn't too cool.

Fireplace ashes can be saved to use as a fertilizer for lawns and plants. Spread ashes evenly on vegetable garden. Use no more than 1.5 lbs/100 sqft/year. Don't use if the pH is greater than 7.0 or if potassium levels are excessive.

The only way to make sure deer don't damage your yard is to use deer fencing or by covering your plants. You can try repellents too. Wolf, coyote, and mountain lion urine may work as deterrents also.

JANUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>31 average high: 37°F average low: 19°F average moisture: 1.35"</p>	<p>1 More houseplants die from too much TLC than neglect.</p>	<p>2 Water plants monthly in Winter if there is not adequate snowfall.</p>	<p>3 Repot or divide your houseplants.</p>	<p>4 Houseplants like high humidity. Try setting them on a humidity tray.</p>	<p>5 Purchase garden seeds early for the best selection!</p>	<p>6 Remove heavy snow from trees & shrubs. Tie or remove hanging branches</p>
<p>7 Rotate houseplants 1/4 turn every week to maintain their shape.</p>	<p>8 Protect your plants from animal damage. Mice, Voles, & Deer.</p>	<p>9 Some plants help other plants grow better. It's companion planting.</p>	<p>10 Fertilize houseplants less now than in the Spring.</p>	<p>11 Fresh, unfrozen water is a great way to attract birds. Use a birdbath heater.</p>	<p>12 Good tools last longer than inexpensive tools.</p>	<p>13 Store garden seeds in a cool & dry place to help them last longer.</p>
<p>14 Don't get discouraged with a few failures. It's normal!</p>	<p>15 Don't break pond ice with a hammer. Use a pond heater.</p>	<p>16 Add fine gravel to houseplant's soil to help prevent fungus gnats.</p>	<p>17 Spiders are the good bugs! They kill more bad bugs than you realize!</p>	<p>18 Clean & sharpen your pruning tools. You will need them soon.</p>	<p>19 Houseplants can actually make your home healthier.</p>	<p>20 Don't plant the same plant in the same pot every year. Crop rotation.</p>
<p>21 Start Geranium seeds or cuttings inside. Dip in Rooting Hormone.</p>	<p>22 Cacti & succulents make great houseplants; they thrive on neglect.</p>	<p>23 Fix your lawn mower, shovels, & tools now. Don't wait until you need them.</p>	<p>24 Protect pets & animals from extreme cold. Provide fresh, unfrozen water.</p>	<p>25 Ice melt is safer for plants & cement than salt.</p>	<p>26 Try planting an indoor garden in a cold frame or greenhouse.</p>	<p>27 Forgot to plant your bulbs last fall? Plant them in pots & put outside in a shed.</p>
<p>28 Birds love SUET. It's a high energy food, and a great food for cold weather.</p>	<p>29 Starting seeds early can add up to 6 weeks to your gardening season.</p>	<p>30 Protect pets & animals from extreme cold. Provide fresh, unfrozen water.</p>	<p>31 We have FREE handouts with tips & suggestions for gardening tasks.</p>	<p>1 Start a garden diary! Keep track of successes & failures this year.</p>	<p>2 1 cup = 8 oz 1 pint = 16 oz 1 quart = 32 oz 1 gallon = 128 oz</p>	<p>3 3 tsp = 1 tbsp 2 tbsp = 1 oz 2 cups = 1 pint 2 pints = 1 qt 4 qts = 1 gallon</p>

February is a month that can vary widely from year to year. Some years, February is an extension to January. Other years, February is a preview of March, with rainy days and a few extra flowers. Spring is just a few short weeks away.

If exceptionally cold weather is in the forecast, provide protection to early flowering, or tender plants by using a frost cloth. Do not use plastic as plastic can freeze-burn a plant.

Witch-hazel, snowdrops, crocus hellebores, and several other flowers may start to boom very soon.

If the ground is not frozen, deciduous shrubs and trees can be transplanted this month. Once the buds begin to swell, it is late and when they break it is too late.

Fertilize trees 6-8 weeks before they start to grow. Punch a series of 1-2" holes, 2' apart, and 6-12" deep around the drip line. Apply fertilizer in each hole. Don't put too much or you may have a spotted lawn.

Late-February is the time to fertilize shrubs and evergreens. Use an acid-type rhododendron fertilizer to feed evergreens, rhododendrons, azaleas, and Japanese Maples.

Prune grape vines as soon as you have time. The sooner the better. Save the cut vines to make wreaths or other crafts. Forsythia, quince, spirea, lilac, wisteria, flowering cherry, and other early-spring flowering shrubs will be blooming soon. Don't prune them now, wait, they should be pruned a little later, after they finish flowering. Pruning now will reduce the amount of flowers. Prune fruit trees anytime from now until they start to blossom. You can also prune them after they finish blooming. Summer pruning can be better.

It's a good time to examine your landscape & trim any branches that were damaged by winter. Prune to improve the shape of the plant, as well as opening up the center of the plant for air circulation and sun exposure. Always start pruning by removing the bad branches.

Start flower seeds indoors 6-8 weeks before you want them to plant them outside. If you start the seeds too early, you may have to transplant them to larger pots. Plant perennials, verbena, coleus, dianthus, celosia, salvia, petunias, impatiens, flowering cabbage, and kale from seed. Use germination mats and grow lights to help seedlings grow. Plant peas, onions, and spinach outside as soon as the ground is dry.

Avoid working the soil when it is too wet. Wait until the soil starts to dry, to avoid creating dirt clods. If you prepared your soil last fall, you can plant peas as soon as the ground is dry enough to rake. Raised beds can be planted 3-4 weeks earlier than traditional areas.

Continue feeding the wildbirds; you'll want them to stick around to help with insect control when it warms up. Give them a high energy food such as suet or peanut butter. Birds are attracted to a source of unfrozen water. Try a birdbath heater to keep water available.

Remove excessive piles of snow on the lawn to prevent snow mold. Fireplace ash, Utelite, or Ironite can help melt snow quicker.

Houseplants may be growing. Don't fertilize houseplants very much until March, when the plants start to put on new growth, then fertilize regularly all summer.

Indoor Bonsai trees are especially fun to have in the winter. You can enjoy pruning, grooming, and growing them without getting out of your chair. These miniature trees need regular watering and plenty of good light. They like good air circulation, but they can tolerate locations near furnace vents, or near doorways. Growing Bonsai plants is both an art and a science, be sure to learn more about watering and trimming your Bonsai plant as soon as you have time.

Fertilize your amaryllis once a month until you plant it outside.

Don't prune roses until late-March.

FEBRUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 Average high: 43°F Average low: 24°F Average moisture: 1.33"	29 Prune grape vines, maples, locusts, & birch in January or February.	30 Remove large piles of snow from your lawn to prevent snow mold.	31 Wait to start seeds inside for 6-8 weeks before transplanting them outside.	1 Have soil tested every few years to determine the pH level.	2 Learn how to prune. It can make a difference. Attend a pruning class.	3 Purchase your seeds early. Begin to plan your seed starting times.
4 You can repel deer with Milorganite or Liquid Fence Repellent.	5 Harvest your winter carrots, beets, & onions before they start growing in spring.	6 Don't start seeds too early. Give them plenty of light. Need a grow light?	7 Soil temp. inside your house can be 10°F below room temp.	8 You can plant most trees & shrubs as soon as the snow melts.	9 Water saving products can save your yard: Soil Moist, Hydretain...etc.,	10 Plant a new rose variety. Ground cover roses are easy to grow & maintain.
11 Finely ground coconut fiber or sphagnum moss are good seed starting medias.	12 Start most perennials and most herbs inside.	13 Don't prune roses yet. Wait until April, when the weather is warmer.	14 Show your love by gifting someone a houseplant!	15 Always plants seeds in containers with good drainage.	16 Walk through the yard often. Repair winter damage to shrubs & trees.	17 Sterilize soil by moistening it & baking at 300°F for 2 hours.
18 Try planting a new tree this year!	19 Don't prune roses yet. Wait until April, when the weather is warmer.	20 Wait to prune early bloomers until after they bloom. Forsythia, Wisterias, Lilacs...	21 Start your strawberry jar early for best results.	22 Fertilize fruit trees 6 weeks before they bloom.	23 Apply Dormant Spray when the buds on a tree begin to swell.	24 Build cold frames. You will need them soon for tender plants.
25 Prune fruit trees now until they bloom. Don't prune while in bloom.	26 Heirloom & non-hybrid vegetable varieties are available. Save the seeds.	27 Invest quality pruning tools. Corona pruners are high quality.	28 If the soil is dry enough, plant spinach, peas, beets, carrots, & onions.	29 Plant peas, spinach & onions outside until May 15. Replant in July.	1 1 lb = 16 oz 1 ton = 2,000 lbs	2 1 lb = 453.59 g 1 kg = 35.274 oz

March brings plenty of cold days and nights ahead, but spring is just around the corner. Many beautiful spring perennials will begin to flower: Crocus, Aubrietia, Creeping Phlox, Candytuft, etc.

Fertilize the pansies and flowering kale you planted last fall as they will be showing their color soon.

Spray dormant oil when buds are swelling, but before the flowers, or leaves have opened. Spray when the temperature is above 40°F. The closer you wait, the better your dormant insect control will be. Apply dormant oil to fruit trees, shade trees, pine trees, and other shrubs, such as roses, raspberries, euonymus, and junipers. Dormant oil controls aphids, scale insects, spidermites, and many other overwintering pests. It does not control insects that lay their eggs in the soil, such as codling moths, borers, or cherry fruit flies.

Spray a fungicide on fruit trees just before they start to bloom to control coryneum blight.

Fertilize fruit trees 6-8 weeks before they start to grow. Do not fertilize mature shade or pine trees, unless they are under stress. Fertilize other trees and shrubs early in the spring to stimulate strong new growth. However, it is sometimes better to under-fertilize than to over-fertilize trees.

Finish pruning fruit trees this month, before the buds swell, or wait until after they completely finish blooming. Don't try to prune trees while they are blooming, or while the leaves are beginning to form.

March and early April is a good time to transplant shrubs and trees. As soon as the soil has thawed, but before buds have broken open, you can move most shrubs and trees safely.

Remove winter protection mulch from around roses and flowers. Uncover tree roses, climbing roses, and mini roses. Roses can be pruned in late-March or early April. Severe spring pruning results in nicer, long stemmed flowers, and more compact rose bushes. Climbing

roses should be thinned to get rid of the tangled growth. Shrub and English roses should be pruned just enough to control their size and shape. Groundcover roses do not need much pruning, just keep them the size you need them. Feed roses after you prune them. A fertilizer mixed with an insecticide is a good way to prevent insect problems. Apply Epsom salts twice each year to promote healthier plants.

Sow flower and vegetable seeds about 6-8 weeks before you plant outside. Resist the urge to start digging gardens too early. You can damage the soil structure. If you pick up a handful of soil, it should fall apart, not stick together.

Many vegetables are ready to be planted this month. Plant pansies, primroses, and perennial flowers outside as soon as the ground is dry. Clean up perennial flower gardens. Cut back ornamental grasses close to ground level.

Most perennials may be divided and moved when the soil allows.

Alternating, thawing, and freezing cycles can tear plant roots, and can even force the plant right out of its hole. Perennial flowers are prone to this type of winter injury.

Plant tender bulbs, inside to get a jump on spring. Plant them outside as soon as the temperature cooperates. You may continue planting additional gladiola bulbs every two weeks until mid-June to ensure a continuous source of blossoms.

Plant your berries, fruit vines, and fruit trees this month!

Houseplants start putting out new growth because of longer days and brighter light. It's a good time to pinch back to generate new growth and thicken them. You can then begin fertilizing them every 2-3 weeks.

Start winter cleanup of the lawn when the grass is no longer sopping wet. Rake your lawn to get rid of dead growth, stray leaves, twigs, and winter debris. Fluffing the area will kill snow mold.

MARCH 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
25 Average high: 51°F Average low: 29°F Average moisture: 1.72"	26 Handouts: -Crop Rotation -Companion Planting -Herb Gardening	27 The daffodils & tulips planted last fall should be blooming soon!	28 Pine trees do not need as much fertilizer as fruit trees.	29 Learn about different xeriscaping options!	1 Don't feed pond fish until the water temp is above 50°F.	2 Do not recycle lawn clippings where weed killers were used.
3 Prune fruit trees & dormant spray them. Some plants benefit from it too!	4 It is sometimes better to plant a week late than a day too early!	5 Clean your pond. Lift the plants from the bottom and check on the fish.	6 Fertilize fruit trees 6 weeks before they bloom.	7 March makes it difficult to have exact dates. Proceed with caution.	8 'Dormant Spay' is Important. Don't forget to apply it!	9 Plant inside: Begonias, Cannas, Gladiolas, Lilies, Anemones, etc.
10 Prune grapes in January, February, or early March.	11 Try planting a new Hydrangea shrub or patio tree.	12 Dust seeds to prevent maggots in radish, beet, onion, parsnip, & turnip.	13 Plant outside: Grapes, Berries, Vines, Trees, Roses & most flowering shrubs.	14 Start outdoor planters inside now. They'll be large & colorful for May.	15 Plant inside: Petunias, Impatiens, Snapdragons, & peppers.	16 Transplant Geraniums into bigger pots. Plant them in May.
17 Plant inside: Lobelia, Alyssum, Portulaca, Verbena, etc.	18 Fertilize pansies & tulips every 2 weeks with bloodmeal or milorganite.	19 Remember to control Chinch Bugs after Forsythia finishes blooming.	20 Start outdoor planters inside now. They'll be large & colorful for May.	21 Plant outside: carrots, radishes, turnips. Make sure the soil is dry.	22 Plant perennial plants outside anytime from now until November.	23 Wait to prune Forsythia, Wisteria, Lilac, Snowball until after they bloom.
24/31 Fertilize your lawn! Use IFA step 1 or IFA step 3.	25 Got a question? Ask an expert! Use our handouts for guidance too.	26 If your dogs damage your lawns, try Revive Dog Spot to restore your lawn.	27 Too much fertilizer makes pine trees straggly & grow too large.	28 Wait until Forsythia blooms to apply crabgrass preventer.	29 1 foot = 12 inches 1 yard = 3 feet 1 yard = 36 inches	30 1 mile = 5,280 ft 1 mile = 1,760 yds

April can be a strange month. Some years, it lives up to its promise and spring arrives. Other years, winter just won't give up. Winter often sends a late-season snowstorm, which can ruin blossoms of early tulips and daffodils.

Spring is finally here! Look out upon your garden and ask yourself where to begin. There is a lot to do this month, so it's important to decide which project is most important. Take advantage of the cool weather before the hot summer temperatures arrive.

Listen to the weatherman! If you plant a day or two too early, you may have to replant them again in just a few more days.

Spray all trees and shrubs with Dormant Oil before they bloom. Apply Systemic Tree and Shrub Insecticide to the roots of trees and shrubs prone to insect and borer problems.

Prune fruit trees if you haven't. If your trees don't need major help, wait until after the tree is finished blooming. Late pruning

helps keep the tree smaller. Early pruning stimulates new growth. Wait to prune spring blooming shrubs until after they finish flowering.

Late-March or early-April is the time to start tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and many other vegetable seeds, inside the house. Wait another 2-3 weeks to start pumpkins, cucumbers, melons, and squash.

Deadhead tulips and daffodils when they finish blooming, but do not cut off the green leaves yet. Lightly fertilize all your spring flowering bulbs lightly just before they bloom, and right after blooming.

Divide perennials. The additional plants you create can be given to friends, or planted into a new area of your garden.

It's time to plant peas, carrots, beets, spinach, lettuce, radishes, parsnips, and onions in the garden. Transplant broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage out in the garden. Don't wait until May to plant these. Dust seeds with Bonide Garden Dust when

planting them in cold, or wet soil, to prevent them from rotting.

Wait until May to plant tomatoes, beans, corn, squash, melons, pumpkins, cucumbers, and peppers. You can plant tomato plants outside this month if you plant them inside a Wall of Water, otherwise wait until Mother's day. Set up your wall of water at least 3-4 days before you plant.

Prune roses as soon as the danger of hard frost is past; either late-March or early-April. Prune them severely now, and then lightly all summer. Fertilize roses as soon as you finish pruning. Fertilize every 6-8 weeks until mid-August. Apply magnesium around roses and other flowers in April.

Just because irrigation water is turned on April 15, doesn't mean the lawn needs water immediately. Wait until the lawn starts to show dryness before watering. Drought stress early in the year. It promotes deeper root growth. Do not water everyday, even in the heat.

Fertilize your lawn 4 times this year; Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Wait to apply Crabgrass preventer until the forsythia blossoms fade. Reapply crabgrass preventer in 60-90 days to prevent spurge and other weeds.

Spring is a good time to aerate, thatch, and over-seed the lawn. Spot treat broad-leaf weeds such as dandelions, henbit, and chickweed; they may be blooming now.

Humate helps the lawn resist some diseases, and it helps promote a deeper root system, which in turn makes it more drought resistant.

Houseplants start putting out new growth because of longer days and brighter light. Fertilize every 2-3 weeks. Do not move houseplants outside until night temperatures remain above 60°F.

Make sure your plants in containers are getting sufficient water. You can add aquatic plants to your pond anytime this month.

APRIL 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>31 Average high: 60°F Average low: 38°F Average moisture: 1.4"</p>	<p>1 Fertilize & prune trees & shrubs now. Wait a week or two for roses.</p>	<p>2 Magnesium Sulphate will help roses & most flowers produce bigger blossoms.</p>	<p>3 Plant outside: potatoes, broccoli, cabbage, brussel sprouts, garlic & shallots.</p>	<p>4 Prevent weeds now. Many pre-emergent products are available.</p>	<p>5 Wait until late May to plant cucumbers, pumpkins, & squash.</p>	<p>6 Start spraying apples & pears for worms about 3 weeks after blossoms drop.</p>
<p>7 Plant outside: Gladiola, Dahlia, Canna, Lily, hardy herbs. Wait to plant basil.</p>	<p>8 Prune & fertilize roses now. Fertilize every 6 weeks until mid August.</p>	<p>9 You can plant tomatoes outside if you use a wall-of water. Otherwise wait until May 15.</p>	<p>10 Check your sprinklers. Irrigation water will soon be on. Water when dry.</p>	<p>11 Plant pansies, helleborus, & many perennials. They love cold weather.</p>	<p>12 Be careful! If you plant too early, you may have to replant them again later.</p>	<p>13 Apply Dormant Spray on fruit trees when flower buds are starting to show color.</p>
<p>14 Bumper Crop is a great mulch to add to all of your Gardens!</p>	<p>15 Use Leaf Spot on Aspen trees when buds open. Repeat biweekly as needed.</p>	<p>16 Start inside: cucumbers, melons, squash, & pumpkins.</p>	<p>17 Miniature roses are very colorful all summer and very hardy!</p>	<p>18 Plant raspberries, blackberries, blueberries & strawberries.</p>	<p>19 Create a shade garden with a fern, heuchera, hosta, columbine, etc.</p>	<p>20 Plant onions, radishes, & carrots. Thin carrots as you harvest radishes.</p>
<p>21 Don't water lawns everyday. Lawns need 1" of water a week.</p>	<p>22 Start inside: cucumbers, melons, squash, & pumpkins.</p>	<p>23 Second planting: radishes, peas, spinach, lettuce, & onions. Plant again in fall.</p>	<p>24 Plant a new rose bush, hydrangea, Itoh peony, or butterfly bush.</p>	<p>25 Mow your lawn to 1.5" now. In the summer mow the lawn to 2".</p>	<p>26 Raspberries come in purple, yellow, black, and red.</p>	<p>27 Last chance to plant peas. Replant in August, for a fall harvest.</p>
<p>28 Control slugs & snail as soon as ground is warm. Use traps or bait.</p>	<p>29 Hang CDs or bird scare-tape in cherry trees to scare the birds away.</p>	<p>30 Don't plant tomatoes, peppers, melons or squash too soon.</p>	<p>1 Fertilize houseplants more often in spring and summer. The days are longer.</p>	<p>2 Fertilize lawn with crabgrass control when Forsythia is in full bloom.</p>	<p>3 1 meter = 1.09 yd 1 yd = .914 meter 1 km = .62 mile 1 mile = 1.61 km</p>	<p>4 1 inch = 2.54 cm 1 cm = .394 inch 1 ft = .305 meter 1 meter = 3.28 ft</p>

May is a time when the weather can either turn your garden into a wonderland, or a frozen wasteland. Don't be in a big hurry to get everything planted early, there is plenty of time.

Be aware of the weather forecasts and plan your gardening activities accordingly. If a frost or cold weather is in the forecast, protect your plants with mulch, newspaper, light cloth, frost blanket, or a poly-film. Do not let plastic touch plants. Remove the plastic as soon as the frost is over to prevent freeze-burn or sunburn.

Early flowering shrubs such as forsythias, quince, and spirea should be pruned back after they have finished blooming. Cut back a third of the remaining branches by one third of their height to keep them short.

Lilacs should be pruned lightly after they finish blooming, removing sucker growth and dead blooms. Feed lilacs in May with a good all purpose fertilizer. They also benefit from a small amount of lime, even in high pH soil conditions. Lime darkens the

color of the blossoms.

Pines and spruce can be kept to a compact size by pinching off some of the new growth. Pinch after they are fully extended but before the new needles are fully developed. Pruning the new growth later in the year will distort the tree.

Be careful using line trimmers around trees and shrubs. A long, large vertical would will not kill a tree. However, even a very small horizontal cut, completely around a trunk, may kill even a large tree.

Monitor roses carefully. Fertilize them every 6-8 weeks from April to mid-August. Deadhead them regularly to promote more blossoms. Roses are drought tolerant, but bloom better when watered properly.

Transplant seedlings outside as soon as you are sure frost danger has past. Be sure to "harden off" seedlings before putting them outside in the direct sunlight.

To "harden off" seedlings, you

1. Let them wilt, just a little, each time before watering.
2. Put them outside in a shady location during the day and bring them inside at night.
3. Cool your growing area to 50°F for a week or so.
4. Do not fertilize them during the hardening off period.

Plant pansies, perennials, and snapdragons. They love the cold. Petunias, geraniums, marigolds, fuchsias, and impatiens should be planted mid month. At the end of the month, plant sweet potato vine, salvia, zinnias, marigolds, vinca, and lobelia.

You can mix last years soil 50/50 with fresh potting soil, as long as the pots did not have any diseases inside them.

Spray fruit trees to control insects and diseases. Download a copy of USU's fruit pest control guide for detailed information about when and what to use.

Rotate vegetable crops to help control the pests, diseases, and to help keep the soil in good condition.

Thin heavy fruit set on apples to increase fruit size, and to increase next year's crop. You must remove the excessive apples by mid-June to affect next years crop. Any fruit thinned after that will help increase this year's fruit size, but will not affect next year's crop.

Withhold early-summer lawn watering until needed, to promote more drought tolerant lawns. Water about 1.5" per week.

Fertilize your lawn. Try not to fertilize during July when the weather is extremely hot. Use IFA step 3 or Dr. Earth Organic Lawn Food.

Check to see if your houseplants are rootbound. Remove the houseplants from their pots if they are circling around the outside of the rootball. It is time to repot.

Slugs and snails are out in full force right now. Be sure to take steps to control them now, before they have a chance to reproduce and take over your garden.

MAY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 Average high: 72°F Average low: 45°F Average moisture: 1.49"	29 Prune Forsythia, lilacs, & wisteria after bloom, but before mid-June.	30 Do not use soil sterilant in a small yard. It's not safe around most plants.	1 Be sure to plant at the right time, depth and spacing.	2 Water lawns 1.5" per week. Water in the morning or evening.	3 Plant outside: Gladiolas, Dahlias, Cannas, Begonias, Lillies & Calla Lily bulbs.	4 Prevent shade tree borers: ash, birch, pine trees, willow, poplars, quaking aspen.
5 Last chance to plant spinach & turnips until August. Replant for fall harvest.	6 Many organic products are available for snail, insect, & weed control.	7 Learn the best time to plant. Corn take 20 days in 50°F soil and 5 in 70°F.	8 Don't prune flowering pear, plum, crabapple, or cherry trees until after bloom.	9 Plant outside: All herbs. Herbs make great additions in your flower garden.	10 Add Soil Moist to potting soil in hanging baskets to keep the soil moist longer.	11 Last chance to plant peas this spring. Plant again in August for fall harvest.
12 Buy the mother in your life a hanging basket for mother's day!	13 Mow lawns 1.5"-2" long. Control Spurge and repeat in 6-8 weeks.	14 Don't remove tulip leaves until they turn yellow. Around 6 weeks after they bloom.	15 Use Bonide Tree & Shrub Insect Control for tree borers. Don't use on fruit trees.	16 Prune summer blooming trees & shrubs before they start growing in the spring.	17 Stop suckers on your trees with Sucker Punch or Sucker Stopper.	18 Plant Outside: petunias, pentas, marigolds & most annuals & perennial flowers.
19 Plant outside: tomatoes, peppers, beans, eggplants, corn & most veggies.	20 Spray pear trees for "fire blight" while trees are still blooming.	21 Spray now to prevent Raspberry Cane Girdler and Cane borers.	22 Spray plum & cherry trees for aphids. Do it as leaves emerge not when blossoming.	23 Coconut coir is a great product to help keep your soil moist longer.	24 Kill grass in flower gardens without killing flowers with Grass-b-gon.	25 Plant outside: corn & beans. Re-plant every 2 weeks until July 4.
26 Spray cherry trees now for aphids. Spray in June for fruit fly worms.	27 Spray apple trees for worms every 10-17 days starting around 3 weeks after bloom.	28 Control snails and slugs now! You might win the battle with a little persistence.	29 Second time to fertilize your lawn. Use IFA step 3 Spring and Summer.	30 Don't forget to prevent spurge and oxalis in the lawn now!	31	1 1 acre = 43,500 ft 1 cu ft = 1,728 cu in 1 cu yd = 27 cu ft

June is an excellent month to pick out a few new perennials, and put them into the garden. Divide spring flowering perennials such as Primrose, Arabis, and Aubrietia.

Deadhead spent flower blossoms to keep plants flowering. Mulch flower gardens to conserve moisture, control weeds, and to help cool the soil.

Pinch back any flowers; Fuchsias, Geraniums, Cosmos, or any other plants that might be getting a little leggy. Pinch your mums to encourage them to be bushier and have more blossoms. Pinch again, every 6" or so until July.

As the weather dries out, your container plants may need daily watering. If your hanging baskets dry out too severely, and the soil shrinks away from the pot, set your pots in a bucket of water for an hour, so they can completely re-saturate the soil.

Water and fertilize container plantings to encourage new growth and flowering. Try using Osmocote fertilizer.

Watch for tobacco budworms in petunias and geraniums. Prevent spidermite and scale problems early in vegetable gardens.

It's time to trim hedges. Clip hedges 2-3 times a year, to maintain the desired shape.

Last chance to plant all of the warm weather vegetables: corn, beans, peppers, egg plant, tomatoes, squash, and pumpkins as soon as possible. It's almost too late.

Fertilize vegetables every 4-6 weeks during the summer. Fertilize tomatoes when you first plant them, but too much fertilizer, later in the season, stimulates new leaves, and reduces the amount of fruit.

Potatoes need a lot of nitrogen to produce an abundant harvest. Fertilize ever 3-4 weeks in the early summer. Do not water potato plants very often when first planting. Too much = rot.

As soon as cucumber and squash vines start to 'run', begin spray treatments to control

cucumber beetles, squash bugs, and squash vine borers.

Blossom end rot in tomatoes and peppers is not a disease. It's usually caused by inconsistent watering. Add gypsum to the soil or cover the soil with mulch to prevent this. Affected tomatoes are still good to eat.

After natural fruit drop in late June, thin the fruit trees carefully to produce larger, better fruit. Prune suckers and water sprouts from all fruit trees. Spray cuts with Sucker Stopper to prevent suckers from growing back.

Don't forget to spray your fruit trees, raspberries, and vegetables to prevent many insects and diseases. It is safe to use pesticides, if you choose the right product, spray at the right time, and wait the right amount of time.

It's not too late to reseed or over-seed the lawn. Be certain to keep newly seeded areas well watered. Fertilize with IFA step 3 Spring and Summer Fertilizer. Do it now before its too hot.

Water turf sparingly now to increase drought tolerance during heat of summer. Let turf wilt between watering for best results. Do not water the lawn everyday.

Don't remove lawn clipping from the lawn. They return nutrients to the soil and do not contribute to thatch build up this year.

Do not spray for lawn weeds if the temperature is about 90°F for 24 hours. Apply pre-emergent for spurge.

Check your roses for mildew, aphid, black-spot or other insect or disease problems. If they appear take care of them right away. Stop fertilizing your roses in mid-August. Give your roses about 1/5 cup of Epsom salt twice a year. Once in April and again in June.

Dust broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage with Sevin, Eight, or Dipel to control cabbage looper.

Change the water in your bird bath regularly. Standing water may bring mosquito larvae.

JUNE 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 Average high: 83°F Average low: 53°F Average moisture: .97"	27 Humate (Humic Acid) helps lawns resist many lawn diseases.	28 Blooming & Rooting fertilizer is perfect for all flowers & veggies.	29 Careful using pesticides. Learn what to buy, when to apply, & how to apply.	30 Don't remove tulip leaves until they turn yellow. About 6 weeks after bloom.	31 Blooming & Rooting fertilizer is perfect for all flowers & veggies.	1 Second planting of corn & beans. Replant every 2-3 weeks until mid-July.
2 Organic insect controls can be effective: hot pepper wax, neem oil, soap,...	3dormant oil, spider traps, thuricide, tanglefoot, fly traps, fly paper...	4 ...indoor insect traps, and many more organic products.	5 Plant shrubs, flowers, & trees all summer. Always use Dr. Earth starter!	6 Plant your Amaryllis outside for the summer in a semi-shady garden.	7 Thin carrots, radishes, turnips, onions, & beets. Use them in salads.	8 Plant large pots with vegetables for a 'portable' vegetable garden.
9 Prevent lawn grubs. Apply Bonide Insect and Grub Granules.	10 Plant flowers to attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Try....	11 Hyssop, Foxglove, Penstemon, Red Hot Poker and Butterfly Bush.	12 Learn the best time to prevent & control insects. It will save time & money.	13 Treat for Birch, Willow, Ash & Aspen tree borers now, if you didn't in April.	14 If your lawn had Billbugs or Chinch Bugs last fall - prevent them now!	15 You can harvest your garlic soon, especially if you planted it last fall.
16 Get the father in your life some new tools to make his father's day!	17 Learn about organic gardening. Many great products are available.	18 Harvest your peas, broccoli, & spinach. Be sure to harvest regularly & often.	19 Fun annuals: Bidens, Ipomea, Calibrachoa, Hypoeste, & Lobularia	20 Fertilize your lawn before it gets too hot. Don't fertilize in July/early August.	21 Remove your wall of water. Prune tomato plants to promote bushy plants.	22 Encourage flowers to bloom. Fertilize with Blooming & Rooting powder.
23/30 Cultivate gardens to prevent weeds. Fertilize plants every 4-6 weeks.	24 Don't forget to spray cherries & apples. Try Spinosad, it's organic!	25 Last chance to plant melons, cucumbers, squash, & sweet potatoes.	26 Dust broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower to prevent worms.	27 Dust corn for worms when silk appears. Plant hybrid corn at least 10 days apart.	28 32°F = freezing 0°C = freezing 212°F = boiling 100°C = boiling	29 0°C = 32°F 100°C = 212°F F = C*1.8+32° C =(F*5-160)/9

July is usually one of the hottest months. Watering plants correctly is one of the biggest concerns because of the hot weather. Water all plants deeply. Water early in the morning, before the heat of the day, or in the evening. Water the lawn 2" per week.

Contrary to popular belief, a brown lawn isn't necessarily a dead lawn. Grasses go dormant in times of heat and drought, but will quickly return to life with the fall weather. You can aerate your lawn anytime of the year, including July. Aerating helps water penetrate deeper into the soil, helping roots grow better.

Raise the mower up a notch or two. Mowing the lawn at a taller height helps to conserve moisture at ground level. Mow lawns 2.5-3 inches long during the heat.

Apply humic acid or iron during hot weather, if your lawn needs a little something to make it look better. Avoid fertilizing the lawn in the hot, dry weather. You can burn the lawn.

Do not spray broadleaf weed killers when the temperature will get above 90°F within 24 hours. Weed killers may volatilize, and drift on to neighboring plants. Tomato plants, and grapevines, are especially sensitive to weed killer damage.

Water newly planted trees and shrubs with a hose once a week. Be sure to soak them. Deep-water older tree and shrubs monthly from July-October. Turn the hose to a light trickle, and let the water soak deeply into the root system.

Summer blooming shrubs should be pruned for size and shape after they have finished flowering. Remove any dead or diseased branches, then shape the plant as needed.

Deadhead flowers and roses to encourage continued blooming. Shear back annuals that have become overgrown. They will regain a more compact appearance, and will resume good flower production.

Plants grown in pots need more attention than plants in

the garden. If your containers dry out too severely, the soil may shrink away from the sides of the pot. If this happens, set your dry containers in a bucket of water for an hour or two.

Pansies, flowering kale, and sweet peas may start to fizzle out during the hot summer weather. Remove them, and then plant new ones later in the fall.

Plant seeds of Hollyhocks, English Daisies, Foxgloves, Violas, Canterbury Bells, Sweet William, and more, into the garden. These plants will grow this year, and then they will bloom next year.

Enjoy your harvest, you deserve it. Harvest vegetables regularly. As crops start to finish producing, send those plants to the compost pile. Plant new seeds and new plants, for your fall vegetable garden.

Empty areas in the garden, can be replanted with another fall vegetable crop. Sow seeds for cool-season crops directly into the garden in Mid-July.

Plant beets, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, green onions, kohlrabi, lettuce, parsnips, peas, radishes, summer squash (risky), spinach, swiss chard, sweet corn (risky), turnips. Check the planting schedule to know when the best time is to plant fall vegetables.

Slugs and snails hide during the heat of the day, but they come out of hiding during the cool part of the morning, and during evening hours, or after a rainstorm. Seek and destroy ALL snail and slugs. Do not leave dead snails in the garden. If there are eggs inside of the dead snail, they will still hatch.

Keep up the codling moth controls on apples and pears until September. Repeat applications every month. Spray the lower limbs and the trunk. Download USU spray guide for more information.

Remove weeds before they set seed; don't forget to look under plants for stray weeds you might have missed. A weed seed can stay dormant up to 20 years and still grow.

JULY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>30 Average high: 93°F Average low: 62°F Average moisture: .72"</p>	<p>1 Last chance to plant corn, beans, kohlrabi, & potatoes.</p>	<p>2 Spray for peach tree borers every 3-4 weeks from July-September.</p>	<p>3 Water lawns with 2" of water per week. Check amount using several tuna cans.</p>	<p>4 Do not fertilize lawns this month. Apply humic acid or iron, instead of fertilizer.</p>	<p>5 Mow grass 2.5" long this year. Longer grass needs less watering.</p>	<p>6 Prevent spurge. Thin peach trees and avoid bracing & breaking branches.</p>
<p>7 Aerating your lawn helps it grow & look better. You can aerate any time of the year.</p>	<p>8 Fertilize vegetable gardens regularly all summer until October.</p>	<p>9 Fertilize potatoes & corn with extra nitrogen. "Hill up" potatoes.</p>	<p>10 Peach tree borer affects: peach, almond, nectarine, plum, apricot, & cherry.</p>	<p>11 Start broccoli & cabbage seeds indoors for planting in August.</p>	<p>12 Fertilize patio planters & container gardens with Osmocote. It feeds from water.</p>	<p>13 For more flowers, fertilize monthly with Blooming & Rooting.</p>
<p>14 Trees & shrubs have value - both aesthetically & monetarily.</p>	<p>15 Plant beets, turnips, spinach, kale, & swiss chard for fall harvest.</p>	<p>16 Shade cloth can help tender shrubs. Japanese Maple, Blueberry, & Hosta.</p>	<p>17 Spray apples for codling moths every 1-2 weeks until September. Ask us how!</p>	<p>18 Plan your fall planting schedule. Check out what you can still plant!</p>	<p>19 Dust corn when silk forms on ears. Use Eight, Sevin, or Dipel.</p>	<p>20 Watch out for Spidermites, especially on beans, cucumbers, junipers & spruce.</p>
<p>21 Mulch helps prevent weeds, cool the soil, & conserve water in your gardens.</p>	<p>22 You can plant trees & shrubs all summer if you water them properly.</p>	<p>23 Plant peas & spinach for fall harvest. Repeat in two weeks.</p>	<p>24 Don't apply insecticides too close to harvest. Including organic insecticides.</p>	<p>25 Deadhead flowers to promote more blossoms.</p>	<p>26 Lawn insect damage will appear unless you control the Chinch & Billbugs.</p>	<p>27 Water lawns before 10 a.m. & more often in July. Do not water everyday.</p>
<p>28 Remove spent flowers from perennials to promote more blossoms.</p>	<p>29 Divide perennial flowers in early fall, after they finish blooming.</p>	<p>30 Give your flowers a mid-summer boost with Blooming & Rooting powder.</p>	<p>31 Newly planted shrubs & trees need more frequent water than older trees.</p>	<p>1 Black spots on the bottom of tomatoes? Learn to prevent blossom end rot.</p>	<p>2 Do you have an extra hot spot? Try vinca, portulaca, sweet potato vines!</p>	<p>3 Hand water fruit & shade trees monthly until October to prevent scorch.</p>

August produces some of the driest weather of the year. Although it is not as hot as July, the hot temperatures of August make it tough to spend much time working in your garden, so take advantage of cooler days to work on your projects.

Watering can be a problem this month, particularly when the weather is hot. Vegetable and flower gardens need a consistent supply of water every week to keep them green and looking nice, about 1"/week.

Try to water deeply and thoroughly each time you water. Water early in the morning or later in the evening. Deep watering encourages the plant's roots to grow deeper into the soil.

The best way to tell if plants are getting enough water is dig down a few inches as soon as you finish watering. The soil should be moist at least 3-4" deep to insure the water is reaching the root zone of the plants. Push your finger an inch or two into hanging baskets and container plants to be sure

there is adequate moisture thought the entire root area.

Hanging basket tip: If your hanging basket dries out too severely, the soil may shrink from the pot. When you water, all the water just runs out without soaking into the soil. Set the plant in a bucket of water for an hour or two, so it can completely re-saturate the soil. Soak until the soil stays uniformly moist.

Mid-summer blossom tip: Don't be afraid to give your annual flowers a summer haircut. Cut them back by one half their height, then fertilize them with Blooming and Rooting Fertilizer once a week for the next 3-4 weeks.

Fertilize the roses for the last time this month.

Water 2" per week. Apply 1/2" of water each time you water your lawn.

Fertilize the lawn at the end of the month. If your lawn needs a boost, apply Ironite or Humic Acid.

Change and clean the water in your bird bath regularly, and keep it full. Standing water is less healthy for the birds, and may become a breeding ground for mosquito larvae. Try feeding the birds with a new kind of wild bird food, to see if you can attract new species. Try dried cherries. You may have a cherry tree that you don't know what to do with all the fruit. Pick the cherries and dehydrate them, to feed to the birds during the winter. Refresh the water in your hummingbird feeder as often as necessary. Only ever use white granulated table sugar.

Now is the time to plant many of your fall and winter vegetables. Plant seeds of green onions, carrots, beets, lettuce, spinach, radishes, swiss chard, peas, and turnips directly into the garden early this month. Plant transplants of broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage in your garden for fall harvest.

Continue to watch for insect and snail damage throughout the garden, and take the necessary steps to control the problem. Ask for help!

Prevent powdery mildew on vegetable, and melon plants.

Ease fruit loads on branches and prevent breakage with supports.

Weed control is very important, because with the warmer weather, and increased watering, weed seeds will germinate and grow faster, and mature to the point of producing more seeds very quickly.

A weed is "any plant growing in the wrong location", including herbs, wild-flowers, and perennials. A weed is an unloved flower. A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows. A weed is simply a plant that wants to grow where people want something else.

Check houseplants for insects such as scales, aphids, and spider mites. Wash plants to remove dust layers on their leave. Washing the leaves also helps to eliminate spider mites, aphids, and mealybugs.

AUGUST 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>28 Average high: 90°F Average low: 60°F Average moisture: .92"</p>	<p>29 Don't water your lawn every day, even during the hot weather. It is possible.</p>	<p>30 Don't forget to clean your bird bath, feeder, & fountain often. Don't use soap!</p>	<p>31 Water trees & shrubs deeply once a month until rain or snow in October!</p>	<p>1 Spray for walnut husk fly in peach trees on August 1 & August 15.</p>	<p>2 Don't fertilize your perennial flowers or roses any more this year.</p>	<p>3 Donate extra vegetables to the food bank or the homeless shelter.</p>
<p>4 Last chance to plant beets, radishes, swiss chard, & lettuce.</p>	<p>5 Knowing how much water to use is one of the hardest jobs to learn.</p>	<p>6 Early variety peaches will start to ripen soon!</p>	<p>7 Make sure to hand water new trees & shrubs. Don't rely on the sprinklers.</p>	<p>8 Remember to treat for peach tree borers this month.</p>	<p>9 Deep water older trees monthly until frost. Water new trees frequently.</p>	<p>10 Harvest zucchini squash & cucumbers regularly.</p>
<p>11 Watch out for mildew as temperatures begin to drop.</p>	<p>12 Every part of squash can be eaten. Including flowers, leaves, & tender shoots.</p>	<p>13 Remember to control codling moths in apples & pears.</p>	<p>14 Don't forget about your potted plants while on vacation.</p>	<p>15 Control walnut husk fly in peaches, almonds, & walnuts in both June & August.</p>	<p>16 Last chance to plant peas, broccoli, & cabbage for fall harvest.</p>	<p>17 Don't fertilize your perennial flowers or roses any more this year.</p>
<p>18 Refrigerate as much corn as possible. Keeps it better 6-10 times longer.</p>	<p>19 Fertilize annual & vegetable gardens regularly until October.</p>	<p>20 Dead patches in your lawn could be billbugs, chinch bugs, or water.</p>	<p>21 Use slug & snail bait regularly. Use a different bait each month.</p>	<p>22 Brace peach tree branches to prevent breakage.</p>	<p>23 Try raised bed gardening this fall or next spring. It makes a difference.</p>	<p>24 Liquid fence, milorganite, or bloodmeal, may help keep deer out of your yard.</p>
<p>25 Reduce water to pink tomatoes in late summer to help them ripen faster.</p>	<p>26 Early control for spidermites works best. Try neem oil or malathion.</p>	<p>27 Ornamental sweet potato vines produce edible tubers.</p>	<p>28 Don't spray too close to harvests. Learn when to spray & wash your hands!</p>	<p>29 You can reapply IFA Step 3 Spring & Summer.</p>	<p>30 Reduce water to the lawn when the temperature starts to drop.</p>	<p>31 Fertilize your sweet potatoes to produce an abundant crop!</p>

September is a transitional month between summer and fall. More often than not, gardening activities start to pick up as the weather mellows and moderates. The welcome rains return, and the once-browned lawns start to resume new growth with a lush-green appearance.

As the summer season winds down to fall, it is time to clean up the garden and plan for next spring. Reduce water to trees and shrubs, allowing them to harden off before winter sets in, but do not let them dry out before the cold weather arrives.

Remove unwanted vegetables and flowers and compost them, unless you had any plant disease problems. Send all diseased plants to the recycle yard.

Think about the spring blooming bulbs that you want to plant this fall. Don't plant them until after the first frost. Wait until the soil temperature is below 50°F to plant spring flowering bulbs.

Dig out and divide or move perennials that have overgrown

to a new area in the garden. New, or replacement perennials can be planted this month.

Tender bulbs should be dug up after the first frost and stored in a cool, dark area. After foliage turns yellow, dig them up and cut off the leaves. Let them air dry before storing them for winter.

Dig, divide, or plant peonies. Peonies only need to be divided every 10-15 years. If they don't bloom, dig them up to make sure they are not planted too deeply. Examine tubers for insect or disease problems, then replant them at the proper depth.

Harvest leafy herbs and vegetables early morning, while covered in dew. Pick peas, green beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, squash, peppers, eggplant, and melons after the morning dew has dried. Pick other garden vegetables in the cooler parts of the day. Before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m. Avoid picking vegetables during the heat of the day because they will turn limp or mushy very quickly.

Some root crops can be left in the ground and dug up as needed; just apply enough straw or mulch to keep the ground from freezing. These vegetables will stay fresh until they are harvested all winter.

Harvest pumpkins when the flesh is completely orange and tough. Avoid carrying them by the stem. Harvest winter squash to eat when it has good color and size. Harvest winter squash for storage when the rind is hard enough to not puncture with a fingernail.

Herb plants can be dug from the garden and placed in pots for winter. They need good light.

This month is one of the best for seeding or sodding new lawns; even through mid-October.

Snails do not die in the winter, they hibernate until spring. Eliminate as many as possible.

Pot some spring flowering bulbs for indoor color during the winter. Store pots in a cool, dark place until new growth emerges.

Bring houseplants in before temperatures drop to the fifties. Clean and wash before bringing them indoors. Fertilize less during the winter.

Gradually stop water Amaryllis until the leaves die. Cut the dead leaves, remove the soil from roots, and store the bulb in a cool, dark area for 6-8 weeks before repotting it.

Stop fertilizing your trees and flowering shrubs. In Utah, we recommend early spring fertilizing, not fall fertilizing.

Avoid pruning spring flowering shrubs to ensure plenty of spring flowers.

Fall is a great time to select and plant trees and shrubs. Fall planting encourages good root development, allowing the plants to get established before spring.

Pansies, flowering kale, flowering cabbage, fall asters, and fall mums may be planted now. They will remain colorful through the winter and in the spring.

SEPTEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1 Average high: 80°F Average low: 50°F Average moisture: .89"</p>	<p>2 Spurge & oxalis are a problem. Spray them & prevent them next spring.</p>	<p>3 Keep spraying your apple & pear trees. You are almost finished.</p>	<p>4 Wait to plant fall bulbs until after the first frost, when the soil cools to 60°F.</p>	<p>5 Fall is a great time to plant flowers, trees, & shrubs.</p>	<p>6 Don't give up, insects & diseases don't. Learn what to spray, and when to use.</p>	<p>7 Last application of borer killer for peach borers.</p>
<p>8 Harvest cantaloupe when they smell extra sweet, or when the stem fall off.</p>	<p>9 Harvest grapes after a light frost. It helps increase their sweetness.</p>	<p>10 Let your amaryllis bulb die back. Take inside before frost & let rest for a month.</p>	<p>11 Plant pansies, flowering kale, & snapdragons this fall. They'll look great all winter.</p>	<p>12 Fall is the best time of year to power rake and add new seed to your lawn.</p>	<p>13 Make sure you don't apply any pesticides during the heat of the day.</p>	<p>14 The best time to plant garlic is in the fall.</p>
<p>15 Harvest pole beans regularly for maximum production.</p>	<p>16 Solve many insect & disease problems by adding new seed frequently.</p>	<p>17 Harvest peas, broccoli, lettuce, & spinach. You can harvest in November.</p>	<p>18 Get a jump on Spring. Divide and transplant your perennial flowers this fall.</p>	<p>19 It's easier to kill clover, oxalis, morning glory, & dandelions in the fall.</p>	<p>20 Apples & pears will ripen soon. Don't pick them too early. Try a fruit picker.</p>	<p>21 The best time to plant pansies is in the fall. Second best is early spring.</p>
<p>22 Seal outdoor arbors, furniture, birdbaths, & fountains before winter.</p>	<p>23 Plant flowering cabbage & kale this fall. Enjoy all winter and spring.</p>	<p>24 Expect the first frost. Watch the weatherman for exact forecasts.</p>	<p>25 Cover plants at night with a garden blanket to extend your harvest season.</p>	<p>26 Picking apples before they freeze, or, the apples will not store for long.</p>	<p>27 Don't pick your pumpkin yet. It's too early! Let the skin harden before harvesting.</p>	<p>28 Fall is a great time to work outside in the garden!</p>
<p>29 Only 5% of bugs are harmful. Don't kill the good bugs!</p>	<p>30 Let onion bulbs dry before putting in storage. Store in mesh bags.</p>	<p>1 Your lawn only needs 1.5" of water per week.</p>	<p>2 Apply .5" of water each time you water.</p>	<p>Prevent boxelder bugs on your house with soap & water or Bifenthrin.</p>	<p>4 Tomatoes, banana, apples, oranges, & watermelon are most popular fruit.</p>	<p>5 Harvest winter squash any time for eating.</p>

October is a busy time for gardeners, and it's great to get out in the garden. Planting, transplanting, watering, and snail control head the list of October gardening projects.

Plant spring flowering bulbs, such as tulips, daffodils, and crocus for a splash of early season color. Wait until the soil temperature drops below 50°F to actually plant the bulbs. Other spring flowering bulbs you can consider are: anemone, scilla, fritallaria, allium, muscari, dutch iris, miniature iris, miniature daffodils, snow drops, and ranunculus.

Remove dead annuals from the garden. Do not leave them for spring cleanup. Continue watching for insect and disease damage. Many insects don't die, they hibernate in the winter.

Gladiola, Caladiums, Calla Lilly, Canna Lilly, Dahlias and other tender bulbs should be dug before the ground freezes, and stored in a cool, dark area. Dahlia and Begonia tubers should be stored in a box of slightly moist peat moss.

Pot bulbs in the fall for indoor flowers in the winter.

Collect and save seeds of vegetables and flowers to use next spring. Store unused seeds in a cool, dry location.

Plant garlic cloves for next summer's harvest. Fall planting gets a jump on spring conditions.

Watch the temperature on colder nights. A windless, cold, clear night usually means a killing frost. Cover tender plants at night with a frost blanket. It can extend harvest 2-4 weeks.

Harvest mature, green tomatoes before frost and let them ripen indoors in the dark. It takes a green mature tomato about 14 days to ripen at 70°F, or up to 28 days at 55°F.

Continue to harvest apples. Pick up and discard fallen fruit to reduce disease next year. Fallen fruit is a food source that attracts unwanted animals and deer in the winter. Remove it to help reduce deer damage. Do not store bruised fruit. Use first.

The time of day you pick your vegetables affects the taste and keeping quality of the crop. Vegetables harvested in the morning generally are sweeter, crispier, and juicier. Resting in the garden overnight allows vegetables to replenish moisture lost during the day.

Firm vegetables should be blanched first. Put them in boiling water for 3 minutes then place in ice water for 3 minutes. Dry, cut, then freeze.

Cut back raspberry canes that have grown too long to prevent damage caused by snow or winter winds.

A winter lawn fertilizer should be applied in the late fall. It encourages root growth, increases winter hardiness, and promotes quick green up in the spring. Try IFA Step 4 Fall and Winter fertilizer.

Harvest all pears when they start to drop. Store in a cool, dark location until they ripen. Winter pears do not ripen until December or January. Harvesting is the best part!

Lawn grass needs sunlight as it is creating sugars to store in its root system for good growth next spring.

Continue to water your plants, especially newly planted ones, and your evergreens. Going into winter well hydrated will help keep your plants thriving.

Bring your houseplants inside before they go through any more shock.

Wrap the trunks of young, thin-barked trees (maples, aspen, ash) with paper tree wrap late in the month to prevent sun-scald. Remove in April. Wrap new trees 2-3 years in a row, until the out bark has thickened.

Keep mowing the lawn as long as your grass is still growing. Control lawn weeds. October is the most effective time of year for this job; especially controlling morning glory, both in the lawns and in the garden.

Broccoli, carrots, peas, corn, squash, spinach, tomatoes, potatoes, spinach, peppers, and green beans all freeze well.

OCTOBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>29 Average high: 67°F Average low: 39°F Average moisture: 1.14"</p>	<p>30 Prevent vole damage with mole max repellent. Apply before snow.</p>	<p>1 Roto-till in fall to eliminate weeds, insects, & diseases. Plant earlier in Spring.</p>	<p>2 Water lawns 1"-1.5" each week according to the weather forecast.</p>	<p>3 Irrigation water is turned off Oct. 15, winterize your sprinklers before frost.</p>	<p>4 Fall is a great time to control dandelions, clover, oxalis, & morning glory.</p>	<p>5 Don't water houseplants by the calendar. Always check the soil first!</p>
<p>6 Change your sprinkler clock. Reduce watering your lawn to 1" per week.</p>	<p>7 Bring your houseplants inside before frost. Watch out for bugs!</p>	<p>8 Extend your harvest season with a frost cloth.</p>	<p>9 Spray your houseplants at least twice for bugs before bringing inside.</p>	<p>10 Plant garlic this fall for early summer harvest & use. Many varieties available.</p>	<p>11 Cactus & succulents are easy to care for! Just remember to neglect them!</p>	<p>12 Reduce water to roses now. It helps prepare plants for winter. Don't deadhead.</p>
<p>13 Mums, asters, plumbago, coreopsis, & helianthus are fall perennials!</p>	<p>14 You can still plant peony, iris, daylily, hosta, mums, asters, & pansies!</p>	<p>15 Limit light to your poinsettia, so it will bloom by Christmas. Water & fertilize.</p>	<p>16 Irrigation water is turned off. Winterize your sprinkling system.</p>	<p>17 Pick green tomatoes before a hard frost & store them inside to ripen.</p>	<p>18 Deer do not eat daffodils or hyacinths. Try these deer-free flowers.</p>	<p>19 Continue harvesting your fall crop of peas & broccoli until Thanksgiving.</p>
<p>20 Don't give up on weeding. Weed seeds can still germinate for years to come!</p>	<p>21 Control morning glory now! You may be able to kill it this time of year.</p>	<p>22 Harvest apples before they freeze. Harvest grapes after a light frost.</p>	<p>23 Water lawns, flowers, trees, & shrubs sparingly. Don't let them dry out before winter.</p>	<p>24 Don't compost diseased plants. Send them to the dump for green waste.</p>	<p>25 Don't prune ornamental grasses until next spring. Enjoy their beauty!</p>	<p>26 Let your Amaryllis bulb rest for a month. Repot it with black gold potting soil.</p>
<p>27 Broccoli, carrots, peas, potatoes, corn, squash, peppers, green beans...</p>	<p>28spinach, & tomatoes are vegetables that freeze well.</p>	<p>29 Watch the weather. Water if the weather is hot, windy, or dry.</p>	<p>30 Harvest pears when they start to drop. Store dark & cool until they ripen.</p>	<p>31 Fertilize your lawn for the winter. Use IFA step 3 fall & winter.</p>	<p>1 Blanching: Put in boiling water for 3 min, place in ice water for 3 min, dry, cut, & freeze.</p>	<p>2 Harvest winter pears in the fall. Winter pears ripen in storage during winter.</p>

November sees the last days of fall. Most flowers and vegetables have either begun dormancy, or have entered the compost bin.

Take advantage of the few raining balmy days to finish winterizing the garden and finalize your remaining gardening projects.

Good winter care starts with thorough watering in the fall. When the garden season draws to a close, it is tempting to just forget about your plants. However, you should continue to water all woody plants, especially freshly planted trees, shrubs and evergreens in the fall. Be extra watchful for plants under decks, balconies, or large trees. They don't receive natural moisture. You may need to water them, or shovel snow on them during the winter to keep them moist.

Prune roses, after they are completely dormant, just enough to prevent snow damage this winter. Wait to cut roses back severely until next spring.

After a hard frost, hill up the

tender plants, such as hydrangeas and roses, with leaves, mulch, or soil for winter protection. Wait until the ground freezes to add the mulch or leaves. Use soil from other parts of the garden. Don't damage the roots by digging around the base of the plants.

Cut back many perennial flowers once they have begun to die back. Don't trim ornamental grasses. They can add variety to the yard, and birds love them during the winter. You can transplant your perennials throughout the fall and early winter, until the ground freezes.

Remove frost-killed annuals and vegetables. Roto-till gardens and add organic matter to improve the soil. By preparing your soil in the fall, you can plant earlier in the spring, and you help to eliminate many unwanted insects and diseases.

It's a good time to transplant most trees and shrubs. At this time of the year, most plants are dormant. They can be safely dug and replanted. Dig a large root ball and get the plant back in the

the soil as quickly as possible to keep the roots from drying out, and water it!

As the leaves fall from the trees, deciduous plants can be sprayed with a dormant spray. This spray helps control overwintering insects and diseases. Peach and nectarine trees need a fungicide to control coryneum blight, while apple and willow trees may benefit from an insecticide to control aphids.

Spray Wilt Pruf on all broadleaf evergreens to help prevent dehydration during the cold winter. Spray when the temperature is above 40°F and the spray has time to dry before it freezes.

Remove all raspberry canes that are more than 2 years old. Trim the younger canes just enough to not break.

Stop feeding pond fish when the water temperature drops below 50°F. Set hardy pond plants in the bottom of the pond, and remove all debris, to help prevent the toxic gasses during the winter.

Prevent frost cracks on thin-barked trees, such as maples and fruit trees by wrapping trunks with tree wrap, or by painting with white latex paint.

Most winter damage comes from the drying effects of late-winter sun and wind. With the soil frozen hard, plant roots can't take water up. Spray plants with an anti-desiccant to prevent this type of winter injury.

Protect ornamental and fruit trees and young plants from deer damage by wrapping or enclosing them with a wire screen.

If snow mold has been a problem in previous years, mow the lawn as short as possible in the fall and remove all leaves.

Give your lawn a good raking to lift away accumulations of debris. Keep leaves raked from the lawn. They can be composted.

Apply mulch around tender plants. Wait until the ground freezes before adding mulch.

NOVEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27 Average high: 50°F Average low: 29°F Average moisture: 1.22"	28 Change smoke alarm batteries when daylight savings time ends in fall.	29 Time to add mulch & roto-till your garden. Get a jump on spring & start now!	30 You can still plant spring flowering bulbs until the ground freezes solid.	31 Don't water houseplants as much in the winter. They may need extra light.	1 Spread wood ashes evenly on vegetable garden. Don't use plastic or cardboard.	2 Try an indoor herb garden. You may have to start them from seeds this late.
3 Treat houseplants for mealy bugs, aphids, & fungus gnats.	4 Spray Laurel, Rhododendron, Holly, Boxwood, etc., with Wilt Pruf.	5 Spray Wilt Pruf when the temp. is above 40°F	6 Rosemary, Sage, Oregano, Thyme, & Marjoram belong to the mint family.	7 Christmas cactus need less water and cool temperatures to bloom.	8 Prune & tie up shrubs to prevent winter breakage.	9 Add gasoline stabilizer to lawnmowers & string trimmers before winter.
10 Surprise a special lady in your life with a new houseplant!	11 Water shrubs when necessary. New shrubs need to be kept moist during first winter.	12 Keep poinsettias out of drafts, & away from heat vents & doorways.	13 The bigger the Amaryllis bulb, the more flowers will bloom.	14 Remove the leaves from your lawn & fertilize if you didn't in Oct.	15 If your Amaryllis bulb is smaller now than last spring, it may not bloom.	16 Plant a pot of tulips or daffodils to bloom inside this winter.
17 Winterize cement, fountains, statues, & benches to prevent breakage.	18 Plant a pot of paperwhite bulbs every 2 weeks for flowers all winter.	19 Wait to add mulch to tender shrubs & roses until after ground freezes lightly.	20 Prune raspberries & roses for winter. Ask for a free pruning guide.	21 Buy an extra snow shovel, you are going to need them pretty soon.	22 Clean & oil tools before storing them for winter.	23 Feed wild birds high quality seed. Cheaper the seed, the more waste. Try suet.
24 Stop feeding pond fish when the water temp is 50°F.	25 Consider a live Christmas tree to plant outside after Christmas.	26 Bake wild bird seed at 120°F for 1 hour to prevent seed germination next year.	27 Refrigerate pots of tulip bulbs for 6-8 weeks to make them bloom inside.	28 Wild bird seed bells are great gifts for your friends & neighbors.	29 Prevent voles from tunneling in your lawn with Mole Max granules.	30 Start paperwhite bulbs in pots of gravel to give as gifts next month.

December is a busy and festive season. It is officially winter this month. Enjoy this month's indoor gardening activities.

There are a few more projects you can do this month:

1. If your roses aren't protected yet, do so as soon as possible.
2. Spray an anti-desiccant (Wilt Pruf) on all tender plants and evergreens; make sure the daytime temperatures are above 40°F, and the spray has time to dry before it freezes.
3. Water houseplants with tepid water. Cold tap water may shock plants. Don't use soft water, and let the water sit 24 hours to remove chlorine and fluoride.
4. Move houseplants closer to windows, or to sunnier exposures, plants are dropping leaves. Don't allow the leaves to touch the glass because they will freeze.

Be sure to remove any foil wraps on your containers. These festive foils can hold water in the pots which could cause the plants to rot. When you water your plants, add enough water that fills the saucer about half full. Let the plant sit for an hour

and then discard any remaining water. Buy a moisture meter to help you know when the soil is dry.

Glossy leaved houseplants such as philodendrons, rubber plants, and palms should be sponged off periodically with a soft, damp cloth, to allow them to breathe.

Plants with fuzzy, textured, or other non-glossy type leaves should be set in the sink and sprayed gently with room temperature water, until the dust is cleaned away. Allow foliage to dry completely.

Buy some Amaryllis bulbs to grow on a table or windowsill. These bulbs are easy to maintain, and are fun to grow from year to year. The bigger the bulbs, the more blossoms it will produce.

Watch for fungus gnats are common insects that like to hideout on houseplants. They can come home on a poinsettia, an amaryllis, or an almost any other plant. Fungus gnats are one of the most annoying plant pests, but cause little damage.

Check on your potted bulbs. Make sure they are moist, and in a cold, dark area until they have established their root systems, about 8 weeks. When they fill their container with roots and new growth begins, bring them into a cool room.

Poinsettias prefer cool weather. About 65-70°F during the day and 55-60°F at night. Keep them in bright, natural light. Keep them away from heat and cold drafts. Be sure to water consistently. If you want to keep them past Christmas, fertilize them regularly with Blooming and Rooting Fertilizer.

Water any plants that are outdoors that may be dry. Water when the temperature is above freezing if there hasn't been enough precipitation and the ground isn't solid.

Be careful using ice melts on your cement and around your shrubs. Too much can ruin concrete and kill plants. Fertilizers also melt ice, but some can damage concrete more than salt, so use them sparingly.

Test unused seed for germination. Set the seeds on a moist paper towel. Set the towel in a warm, well lighted location. In 7-10 days check to see how many seeds have germinated. If fewer than 6 sprouted, discard the old seed, and buy new seed. Store remaining seed in a cool, dark, dry location.

Remove heavy snow and prune damaged branches throughout the winter months.

Start planning for next year by making notes and preparing orders. Track the progress of your garden. A very important, but often overlooked record, is that of your garden's progress. Next year, you'll look back to see the result of specific pest applications, or the result of adding a soil conditioner.

Successful gardening is a process of trial and error. By noting the success or failure of each plant, you create a plan for future success.

The official beginning of the gardening season is Jan. 1 and the official end is Dec. 31.

DECEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1 Average high: 37°F Average low: 27°F Average moisture: 1.37"</p>	<p>2 Buy a potted Christmas tree & plant it in the yard after Christmas.</p>	<p>3 Cut 1" off your Christmas tree trunk when you take it inside & put it in water.</p>	<p>4 Spray Christmas trees with Wilt Pruf. They will stay fresher for longer.</p>	<p>5 Potted, live Christmas trees should be kept inside for 7-14 days.</p>	<p>6 Cut 1" off your Christmas tree trunk when you take it inside & put it in water.</p>	<p>7 Protect poinsettias from cold temperatures and wind.</p>
<p>8 Houseplants make great neighbor gifts! Try giving one out this year.</p>	<p>9 Furnaces dry out houseplants. Mist regularly & 1/4 turn every 2 weeks.</p>	<p>10 Garden tools & gift cards make great gifts any time of the year!</p>	<p>11 Make a grapevine wreath from your own grape vines.</p>	<p>12 Don't use salt on sidewalks. It can damage your concrete and plants.</p>	<p>13 Garden seeds, gloves, hats, kneepads, & tools make great gifts.</p>	<p>14 Potted paperwhite bulbs can be blooming now. Plant now for Valentine's!</p>
<p>15 Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to keep narrow & prevent breakage.</p>	<p>16 Clean & paint wood handled tools with linseed oil during the winter.</p>	<p>17 Rake leaves from lawn to prevent snowmold.</p>	<p>18 You can plant several fruit trees in the same hole.</p>	<p>19 Feed wild birds with Suet, Nyjer, or birdseed bells. Remember to use fresh water.</p>	<p>20 Houseplants help clean the air inside of your home!</p>	<p>21 Separate sunflower seeds from wild bird seed to prevent waste.</p>
<p>22 How is your garden diary going? Did you keep up with it?</p>	<p>23 Keep fresh, unfrozen water available for all your pets & animals in winter.</p>	<p>24 Tis the season to enjoy indoor gardening, houseplants, or hydroponics.</p>	<p>25 Gardening is the gift that keeps on giving!</p>	<p>26 Protect your potted Christmas tree for 2 weeks when you put it back outside.</p>	<p>27 Apply a fungicide to the lawn if you had snowmold in previous years.</p>	<p>28 Learn about crop rotation & companion planting this winter.</p>
<p>29 Try spreading fireplace ash sparingly on lawns or gardens.</p>	<p>30 Don't use ammonium sulfate on cement. It may damage concrete.</p>	<p>31 Plan next year's garden now. Spring is only 10-12 weeks away.</p>	<p>1 Fresh, unfrozen water is the best way to attract birds during the winter.</p>	<p>2 Try planting a new flower, vegetable, or shrub!</p>	<p>3 Reduce water & fertilizer for houseplants in the winter.</p>	<p>4 Liquid Fence repels deer and other animals stay away from your plants.</p>