



Guilford Gardening Journal

Timely Tips for Your Central North Carolina Garden

April

Ornamentals & Houseplants

- Begin to plant out summer bulbs such as caladiums, gladiolus, lilies when frost danger is past.
- Begin to set out perennials like phlox & shasta daisies. Later in the month, start to set out annual bedding plants like marigolds, begonia, petunia, impatiens but keep an eye on the weather.

Edibles

- Start cucumber, summer squash and watermelon seeds indoors to get a head start.
- Asparagus harvest begins.
- Thin out crowded seedlings from early plantings of cool season crops such as beets, carrots, lettuce, onion and radish.
- Try an early sowing of warm season crops such as green beans, summer squash, sweet corn and cucumbers but keep an eye out for late freezes and be prepared to protect the young plants.
- Begin spray program on fruit trees to keep diseases and insects to a minimum.

Lawns

- Do not apply any fertilizer to cool season grasses such as fescue.
- Cool season turf grass should be mowed at a height of 3 to 3.5 inches.
- Plant warm season grasses like Zoysia this month.

Trees & Shrubs

- Examine shrubs for winter injury. Prune dead, damaged and diseased wood.
- Fertilize early spring flowering shrubs like Forsythia and evergreens like Holly in early April, but only if recommended by a soil test – mature shrubs do not need routine fertilization.
- Fertilize established roses once new growth is 2 inches long. Begin spraying to control black spot if desired. Follow label directions for all products.
- Prune spring flowering trees & shrubs once they finish blooming.
- Check landscape shrubs for azalea lace bugs, boxwood leaf miner and euonymus scale.

Miscellaneous

- Soil testing is one of the most important things you can do for your garden - and it is free to NC residents from April 1 to November 15! Call or visit our office to get the needed materials, or for more information.
- Honeybees can sometimes be found swarming. Call the Extension Office for a local beekeeper to help find a new home for these beneficial insects.
- Hummingbirds return from their winter homes this time of year. Make sure any feeders have been cleaned and refilled.
- Destroy webs of eastern tent caterpillars by breaking webs apart.

For further information on these topics or any other gardening questions, please call our InfoLine at 336-641-2404 to speak with a Master Gardener volunteer or send an email to guilfordmg@gmail.com

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