

# Garden Tips for April/May



## APRIL

- Prune your deciduous trees and shrubs, using proper pruning techniques.
- Be careful not to prune your flowering trees and shrubs that bloom on last years growth (old wood), for example your lilacs. Wait until these plants are finished blooming and then prune shortly after the flowers die off. If you are not certain about when to prune your plant contact the OSU Extension Service or your local garden center to find out.
- Apply a dormant horticultural oil to your deciduous trees and shrubs with a history of insect problems, this product will smother overwintering eggs and the crawler stage of many insects such as aphids, spider mites and scale. A lighter horticultural oil should be used on your evergreens and deciduous trees and shrubs after they have leafed out.
- Direct seed your beets, lettuce, peas, radish, and spinach.
- Transplant your broccoli, cabbage, onions, that you may have started from seed.
- If you haven't fertilized your bulbs yet, now is a good time. Use a fertilizer high in phosphorous (the second number on the fertilizer bag) for example, 0-46-0.



- You may need to get out the lawnmower and mow the lawn by the middle of April.
- Prepare garden soil for spring planting by adding organic matter including manures and compost or planting a cover crop (green manure) such as ryegrass, buckwheat, or barley.

## MAY

- Continue to work your compost pile, by turning, adding materials and keeping it moist.
- Mid April through May is the best time to dethatch and aerate your lawn. Rent a dethatcher from the rental shop and pull up and remove thatch, follow with a fertilizer application to stimulate rapid recovery.
- Direct seed your carrots, corn (late May), chard, kohlrabi, and potatoes.
- Transplant your brussel sprouts, cauliflower, cucumbers (late May), leeks, or peppers.
- Repair or change your sprinkler system to be more efficient.
- Now is the time to manage your weeds when they are small. First identify the weed, then remove by hand, mechanically, or chemically. Do not allow them to flower and go to seed.
- Protect your plants and crops from frost by using row cover or walls of water.

