

Spring Gardening Tips

- Remove any debris such as limbs, twigs, and leaves from planting beds and lawn.
- Reseed bare or worn areas in the lawn, usually April or May.
- Prune fall flowering trees and shrubs, ornamental grasses, and perennials such as daylilies.
- Prune spring flowering trees and shrubs as soon as they finish flowering.
- Apply organic dormant oil spray to fruit trees, magnolias, crabapples, hemlocks, and shrubs such as euonymus and hollies. This will help to control scale and over-wintering insect pests. Apply when temperatures are consistently between 40 and 70 degrees.
- Transplant any shrubs before they begin to leaf out.
- Check existing shrubs for winter “heaving” caused by winter freeze and thaw cycles that may have pushed them out of the ground. Do the same for concrete and stone pavers in walkways and patios.
- Fertilize trees, shrubs, and perennials with a balanced fertilizer such as 10-10-10.
- Fertilize acid loving plants with fertilizer specifically labeled for their acidic needs.
- Aerate lawn vigorously and apply fertilizer. A soil test is the best way to determine the nutrient requirements of your lawn.
- Apply pre-emergent weed control before mulching.
- Mulch planting beds after weeds have been removed and pruning has been completed and cleaned up. Dead plant material under or on top of mulch can harbor insects and disease that can spread to your ornamentals.
- Have power equipment such as blowers, weed eaters, and mowers serviced. It is extremely important to mow with sharp blades.
- Clean and sterilize seasonal pots with a light bleach and water solution to remove over-wintering disease and insects. Do not reuse last years potting soil unless it has been sterilized.