

## Basic Gardening Tips for April

- ❖ Begin your winter cleanup of your lawn and flowerbeds; remove leaves and debris.
- ❖ Begin edging your flowerbeds when the ground thaws.
- ❖ Get your soil tested.
- ❖ All spring bulbs should be up and growing now. When you see the flower stalk emerging from the foliage, it's time to fertilize. Use a complete fertilizer such as 20-20-20 or a special bulb formulation. Fertilize all perennials.
- ❖ Transplant shrubs, trees, and plants before they leaf out.
- ❖ Clean out your birdhouses.
- ❖ Clean your garden tools.
- ❖ Divide most perennials once they've sent up significant foliage at least a couple of inches tall. Divide them if they are getting crowded (floppy stems, reduced blooms, a dead spot in the middle) or you simply want more plants. Sedum "Autumn Joy," for example, needs to be divided about every other year to prevent flopping. Siberian irises usually need dividing every three years or they start to grow in a circle around a dead center. Save some for our May sale!
- ❖ Finish up most pruning this month with the exception of spring-blooming trees and shrubs. Prune them immediately after they have finished blooming.
- ❖ Plant pots, window boxes, and containers with cool-season flowers that can withstand frost and even snow. Pansies are a favorite.
- ❖ Clear out debris from the bottom of water gardens and add it to your compost heap.



Start feeding fish in your pond when the water temperatures are 50 degrees.