

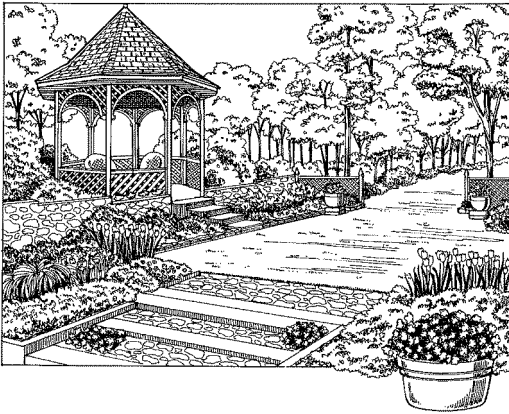


10809 Honeycutt Rd., Raleigh, NC, 27614



www.homewoodnursery.com

# April Garden Planner



## Plant:

Last frost date is April 15th (plus or minus 10 days).

After that it's time to plant everything (but double check the 7-day forecast.)

Be sure to keep new plantings watered so that they

can become well-established. **If you're planting in clay, don't forget the Permatill or Soil Conditioner to help aerate and break up the clay, and prevent plant problems associated with poor drainage and aeration. Get a FREE Planting Guide for Trees & Shrubs at Homewood! (or on the Garden Tips page of the website)**

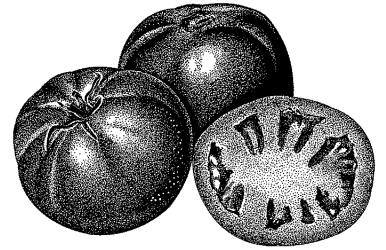
~ **Homewood-Grown roses will be out by mid-month!** We pot up and grow on our roses here at the nursery so you can buy a rose with a healthy root system that's budded up and ready to flower. Homewood grew **over 90 varieties** of roses for great selection, and there are **several new varieties for 2017 as well as toughies from the Knock-Out Series!** Read about them on the Homewood-Grown Roses page of our website!

~ **April is a good time to set out perennials** such as Shasta daisy, heuchera, foxglove, ferns, columbine, pulmonaria, daylily, bleeding heart, and foamflower. Other good plants for our area are sages/salvias, blue mist plant, Solomon's seal, and Lenten rose. **Looking for long-bloomers?** Try hardy lantanas, Moonbeam or Zagreb coreopsis, coneflowers, gaillardia, gaura, autumn sage, pincushion flower, garden phlox, perennial geranium, black-eyed susan, Lenten rose, and verbena.

~ **Redbud, dogwood, fringe tree, dwarf crepemyrtle, and snowbell are great flowering trees for smaller gardens or areas where a small tree is needed.**

~ **As weather warms and danger of frost is past, colorful**

**annuals can be planted.** Try begonias, impatiens, heliotrope, and torenia to brighten shady areas. New Guinea impatiens are resistant to downy mildew so try them if



you had problems growing impatiens. Plant geraniums, zinnias, lantana, marigolds, salvia, portulaca, purple fountain grass, and petunias in sunny spots. Other plants to try include copperleaf plant, cleome, perilla, coleus, superbells, and nemesia. (Just to name a few!)

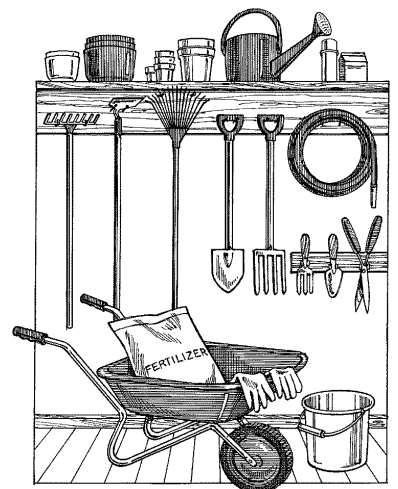
- ~ **After mid-April, set out melons and veggies** such as sweet corn, cucumbers, green beans, summer squash, cantaloupe, okra, eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes. **Mulching too early** will result in cooler soil and delayed growth. **If blossom end rot has been a problem on tomatoes** add a little lime to each planting hole at planting time or spray fruiting plants with Rot Stop™, a calcium supplement for plants. Keep moisture levels even for added protection and feed with Tomato-tone™.
- ~ **Plant summer-flowering bulbs** such as lilies, cannas, dahlias, elephant ears, and gladiolus.

## Fertilize:

- ~ **Fertilize bulbs** with compost or Bulb-tone™ as they finish blooming.
- ~ **Begin feeding roses (Rose-tone™ is excellent)** and continue to fertilize every 2 weeks or as directed by fertilizer labels throughout the growing season. Your roses will also love a 1" layer of **compost** spread over the roots. **For gorgeous roses, water with Bayer All-In-One Rose & Flower Care which features insect & disease control plus fertilizer in one convenient application.**

~ Fertilize **asparagus** with a fertilizer rich in nitrogen.

~ **Now is the time to fertilize trees and shrubs** with a surface application of slow-release fertilizer or an organic fertilizer such as Plant-tone™ or Holly-tone™. **Wait until after bloom to fertilize acid-loving azaleas, rhodies, camellias** with Holly-tone™ fertilizer. Young plants will need less than established plants. Fertilize around the drip line where the feeder roots are instead of



the base of the plants and spread it evenly around, lightly scratching it in to the soil surface.

## Garden Maintenance:

- ~ After rains, **pull weeds** while they come out of the ground easily. **Apply pre-emergent** Espoma Organic Weed Preventer™ to lawn and garden areas to prevent weed seeds from germinating. **In garden beds, follow with mulch to further suppress weeds and insulate root systems.** Spot spray any unwanted weeds with non-toxic herbicide, **BurnOut Fast Acting Weed & Grass Killer™.**
- ~ **Don't toss those Easter lilies!** They're hardy here. You can plant them out and those big white blooms will be back next season (in August).
- ~ **Dig, divide, and replant perennials.** Good candidates for division are daylilies, hosta, phlox, ferns, ornamental grasses, coreopsis, liriope, astilbes, coral bells, and cannas.
- ~ **Leave grass clippings on the lawn.** As they decompose, they will provide valuable nitrogen to your lawn reducing the need to fertilize. Research shows that clippings do not contribute to thatch build up. A "mulching mower" is designed to cut grass blades into fine pieces leaving a cleaner looking lawn. When mowing, only cut 1/3 of the leaf blade. Keep fescue height at 2½" to 3".
- ~ **Time for spring houseplant care!** Repot rootbound plants with fresh soil and prune plants that require it. Check for insects and/or damaged foliage. Start the fertilizer regimen and water more often as required. Wash off any dusty leaves (except on African violets and other fuzzy plants).
- ~ **Refresh or add mulch to tree and shrub beds** in a layer 2-3" thick but keeping mulch away from the base of trunks and plant crowns. Mulch will conserve moisture, protect plant roots from temperature extremes, reduces weeds, and helps prevent the spread of soil-borne disease. In beds with veggies and warm-season flowers, wait until the soil warms up a bit to apply mulch.
- ~ **Did winter weather damage your shrubs?** Cut back dead branches until you hit live, green wood. If you can't find any live wood, then give it some time. Many plants just need a little more time to recover or may send up shoots from the base of the plant.
- ~ **Set stakes or cages now** for peonies, or tomatoes at planting time, and any other top heavy plants in your garden.

## Prune:

- ~ **Pinch off tip growth on chrysanthemums** about once a month until July 15th in order promote bushy plants and more blooms in fall. **Other plants that respond well to pinching** later in spring include Autumn Joy sedum, aster, bee balm, tall phlox, agastache, spike speedwell, and pink turtlehead.
- ~ **Don't prune spring-flowering shrubs & trees** such as azalea, redbud, forsythia, camellias, cherries and viburnums **until after** they have finished



flowering.

- ~ **Lavender and sage can be cut back** as new growth begins as long as they are not cut back below the foliage into bare wood.
- ~ **Don't cut off withering leaves on bulbs** that have finished blooming. Instead, let them go completely brown so they can finish storing food for next year.



## IPM (Integrated Pest Management):

- ~ **Set beer traps for hungry snails and slugs** by putting out containers 2-3 inches deep filled with beer. **Or try non-toxic, pet-safe Earth-tone™ granules.**
- ~ **Eastern tent caterpillars** will emerge over the next month or so to enshroud branches and feed on flowering plums and cherries. Spray inside the "tent" webbing while they are inside it with **Thuricide™** or **Spinosad™** to control or remove & destroy the web.
- ~ If you notice that shrubs such as azalea and pieris have mottled, blanched-looking leaves with shiny black flecks underneath, you may have **lace bug**. If instead of shiny black flecks on leaf undersides, you find fine webbing, then you have **mites**. Spray with **All Season™ Spray Oil** or **Bonide™ Systemic Insect Killer**.
- ~ **If cutworms damage your seedlings**, protect stems with a paper cup with the bottom cut out and sink it at least an inch into the soil. These and other crawling insects can be safely controlled with **Natural Guard Crawling Insect Control™ (diatomaceous earth)**.
- ~ Prevent **damping off disease** in seedlings by using sterile seed starting medium. Be sure not to overwater & remove humidity covers once seedlings have germinated.
- ~ **Pick up spent camellia blossoms** to help prevent the spread of **camellia petal blight**.
- ~ **Check new growth on plants for aphids.** Symptoms include curled leaves or stickiness, as well as clusters of small green or brown insects on stem tips. Spray with **insecticidal soap** or **blast them with water from the hose**. Oil sprays also effective for **scale** on shrubs such as camellia, citrus, holly, and euonymus but take care not to spray sensitive plants and observe temperature restrictions.
- ~ **If Japanese beetles have been a problem, apply Milky Spore** as directed to your soil. This beneficial bacteria attacks beetle grubs in the soil. Once properly inoculated Milky Spore can control grubs for up to 15 years!

## Coming Events:

**Blooming Bucks are back!**

You receive one Blooming Buck coupon for every \$10 of purchases from now through June 2nd. Then, from June 4th-18th **redeem Blooming Bucks for up to 50% off your purchases at Homewood!**

