



# MASTER GARDENER

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

## Year Round Gardening

### **April Garden Calendar**

Fredricka Bogardus, Colorado Master Gardener

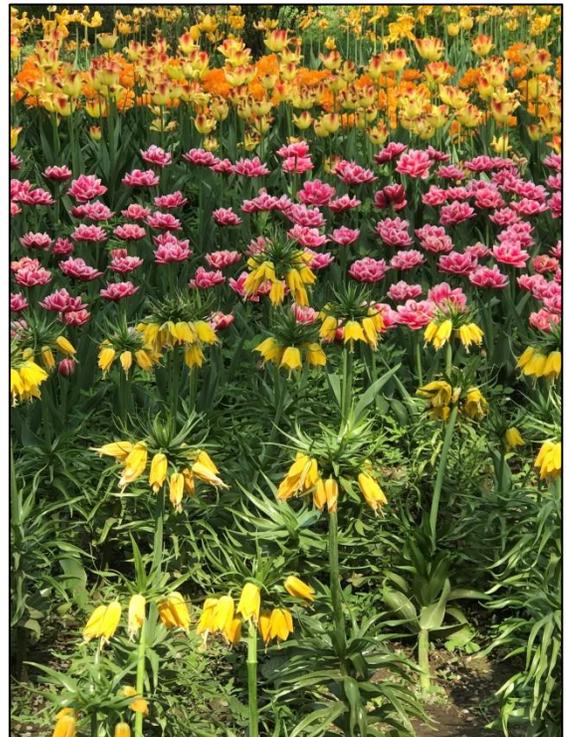
April is a pivotal month in your garden. While we may still see weather variability between winter and spring, the trend is definitely toward warming. As the ground warms the garden awakens.

Garden cleanup is the first priority.

- Rake leaves and debris from around trees, shrubs and other garden areas.
- If you haven't done so yet, cut back ornamental grasses.
- Prune summer blooming shrubs such as butterfly bush, blue mist spirea, potentilla, and some hydrangeas.
- Remove any broken or damaged branches from trees.

What we've been waiting for -- Planting season begins now!

- Plant container or balled and burlapped trees and shrubs from now throughout spring.
- Now is the time to plant bare root roses. Soak roots in water for 12 hours before planting.



#### Vegetables – Early April

##### Outdoors

- Soak parsley seeds 24 hours before planting ¼" deep.
- Dill seeds should be pressed lightly into the soil.
- Peas can be sown as late as mid-April.

##### Indoors

- Start warm season vegetables from seed like tomatoes and peppers.

## Flowers and Vegetables - Mid April

### Outdoors

- Plant lettuce, chard, spinach, kale, beets, carrots, radishes and onion sets.

### Indoors-

- Start seeds of flowers like zinnias and celosia that need four weeks before planting outside. It's not too late to plant Cardinal Seed Vine and Hyacinth Bean Vine indoors; two annual vines that put on a beautiful show mid to late summer.

### Other Garden Chores:

- Transplant: When soil has thawed, divide and transplant summer and fall blooming perennials such as sedum Autumn Joy, garden Phlox paniculata, Asters, perennial Dianthus, and Shasta Daisies.
- Roses – Once new growth starts, usually mid-April, slowly remove mulch from around the plants. Prune dead or damaged canes first, then prune all other canes to approximately 1 to 2 feet above ground. As active growth appears, fertilize with a rose food formulation of 9-14-9 which is higher in phosphorus to encourage blooms and strong roots. Do not prune live canes of climbing roses. However, cutting out dead canes is recommended.
- Lawn care: Core aeration is one of the most beneficial things you can do to maintain a healthy lawn. This is also a good time to do an irrigation audit to make sure your system is working properly.
- Weeding. As you see weeds pull them out. They are generally small this early and easy to remove.
- Wasp control Hang pheromone traps out to capture early emerging yellowjackets. If you trap a queen early, you prevent a nest. These bright yellow traps are available at both garden centers and big box stores. They will not harm other insects just yellowjacket wasps.

For more information go to <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/> for in depth information about the following:

- Roses – fact sheet 7.404
- Tomatoes – Colorado Garden Notes #1817
- The Science of Planting Trees – Colorado Garden Notes #633
- Care of Recently Planted Trees – Colorado Garden Notes #635
- Pruning Flowering Shrubs- Colorado Garden Notes #616

*When you have questions, Colorado State University Extension has research-based answers. Get answers to your horticulture questions by visiting [ask.extension.org](http://ask.extension.org) any time day or night. Follow the El Paso County Master Gardeners on [www.facebook.com/ColoradoMasterGardeners.EPC/](http://www.facebook.com/ColoradoMasterGardeners.EPC/). Classes and other events can be found at <https://elpaso.extension.colostate.edu>.*