

Hi Everyone,

The weather is glorious. Sunny skies and flowers and trees blooming. After this past winter it is well deserved. The nurseries are having a terrible time with their merchandise which has burnt due to the winter weather. They are having to bring plantings in from outside the area, so we may see some higher prices in the plant stores. Plants that were in containers just couldn't handle the cold weather. I have just visited 2 nurseries and they are almost wiped-out. Do not fear - there will be plants. Today is April 21st and I have spent all day pruning-out dead branches etc. and checking to see if our plantings are sprouting new growth. Being patient, this season, is a virtue because plantings that I was going to ditch are showing leaves. Glad I waited.

I haven't put any houseplants or new flowers out yet, because there still may be some drop in the temps at night. I probably will put everything out by the end of April.

In May:

- Prune azaleas and rhodis after flowering.
- Re-shape plantings
- Do not cut-off bulb foliage leaves

Fertilize:

- Roses with rose food.
- Azaleas and Rhodis.
- Use 10-10-10 around Memorial Day on all plantings.
- Use lime to get pink hydrangeas.

Lawn:

- Fertilize warm season grasses.
- Fescue and bluegrass mow at 2 1/2" to 3 1/2".

Perennials and annuals:

- Plant this month.
- Can divide daffodils.
- Lightly fertilize perennials.

Miscellaneous:

- Keep on-top of your weeding so they will not get out-of control. I have put down PREEN which works very well after I have weeded an area.
- Cool season veggies that were planted from seed need to be thinned out.
- Stake any perennials that will flop when growing.
- Tender bulbs like canna, caladium, dahlia, etc. can be planted when we are sure the cold temps have passed.

Interesting plants for spring:

- Oriental poppy (*Papaver orientale*) is a brilliant perennial which flowers in late spring; goes completely dormant after flowering with new growth in fall. Full sun; 30 to 40 inches high; and 18 to 24 inches wide.
- Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) ; perennial; pink buds open to soft blue flowers in early spring; reseeds; part sun to full shade 12 to 18 in. tall and 6 to 12 in. wide.
- Alpine columbine (*Aquilegia alpina*); perennial; violet blue flowers in late spring; reseeds; full sun to part shade; 18 to 24 in. tall and 10 to 12 in. wide.
- Crested iris (*Iris cristata*); Perennial pale blue flowers in early to midspring; needs moist soil if grown in sun; full sun to part shade; 6 to 10 in. tall and 6 to 12 in. wide.
- Peony (*Paeonia*); Perennial; flowers in late spring; full sun to part shade; 30 to 36 in. tall and wide.

These are a few spring flowers that you may want to try. They will make your garden smile.

Any questions - please contact me at: 255-0010 or EquineBRC@aol.com

Enjoy!
Barb