

Your Gardening Guide for April

The Flower Garden

- ✂ Tie in climbing and rambling roses as near to horizontal as possible. This will restrict sap flow, therefore causing more side shoots to grow along the stem and in turn produce more flowers.
- ✂ Lift and divide perennial plants to improve vigour and create new plants for your garden.
- ✂ Sow seeds of bedding plants in a heated greenhouse or propagator. Early sown seeds from March or February can be planted out now, remembering to handle the seedlings by their leaves, to avoid damage.

The Fruit & Vegetable Garden

- ✂ Prepare vegetable seed beds by removing any weeds and digging in plenty of compost. Cover the prepared ground with sheets of black plastic to keep it dry and warm in readiness for planting.
- ✂ Apply a slow-release fertiliser around fruit bushes, fruit trees and raspberry canes to encourage good crops for the season.
A range of plant fertilisers can be found within the Chemical Department
- ✂ Potatoes can be planted during April; either directly into the ground or in potato grow bags. Earth up any early shoots to protect them from frosts.

Trees & Shrubs

- ✂ Mulch shrub and rose beds with a thick layer (5-8cm) of organic matter to help retain moisture and reduce weeds.
- ✂ Trees, shrubs and hedging can be fed with a general fertiliser or fish, blood and bone. Sprinkle over the root area, before hoeing into the surface of the soil.
- ✂ Remove any frost damaged shoots from evergreens that may have been damaged by earlier cold weather.
- ✂ Check tree ties to ensure they are not digging into the bark, if so loosen them to allow the trunk to expand.

Indoor Plants

- ✂ Increase the watering of indoor and conservatory plants as the days become longer. Check them at least every few days.
- ✂ Move conservatory plants such as Yucca, Ficus and citrus plants outside on warm days, but remember to bring them back indoors when cold nights are forecast

Lawn Care

- ✂ Established lawns should now be in full growth so mow when necessary.
- ✂ Apply a high nitrogen spring lawn fertiliser to start encouraging strong growth. If you have a moss problem, you can use a combined lawn fertiliser and mosskiller.
Lawn fertiliser can be found within the Chemical Department
- ✂ Use a spring-tine rake to remove any old plant debris. This can also be used to rake out dead moss a few weeks after applying mosskiller, if you have done so.

The Water Garden

- ✂ Divide and replant water lilies once they show signs of growth.
- ✂ Small aquatic plants in baskets can be raised up on bricks when first put in your pond, then slowly lowered to the bottom as they increase in size.
- ✂ If you have pond perennials that are becoming vigorous, contain them by planting them in aquatic plant baskets and topping with a layer of gravel to prevent fish from stirring up the compost.

Garden Maintenance

- ✂ Remove algae on paths, walls and patios by using a stiff-bristled brush or pressure washer. It is easier to remove now before too much grows.
- ✂ Give your greenhouse a thorough scrub with hot, soapy water to get rid of any pests and diseases and also to let more light in.

Future Planning

- ✂ Stock up on horticultural fleece to cover any emerging plants and crops should any late frosts be forecast

If you require any further assistance please ask a member of staff



Dean's Garden Centre

