

Weather Averages:

Temperature: High 72.8 Low 44
Precipitation: 3.7 inches

April

Lawn & Garden

Fertilize all early spring flowering plants like forsythia and evergreens like holly, early in April. Late bloomers like azaleas and rhododendrons should be fertilized after their flowers fade.

Start fertilizing house plants again.

Annual flowers can be planted outside after mid April.

Plant gladiola bulbs this month and continue through mid-June.

Transplant azaleas in April to group the plants according to their flower color.

Plant beans, beets, cantaloupe, corn, Chinese cabbage, cucumbers, pumpkin, squash, Swiss chard, and watermelon.

Plant warm season grasses like Bermuda-grass and centipedegrass.

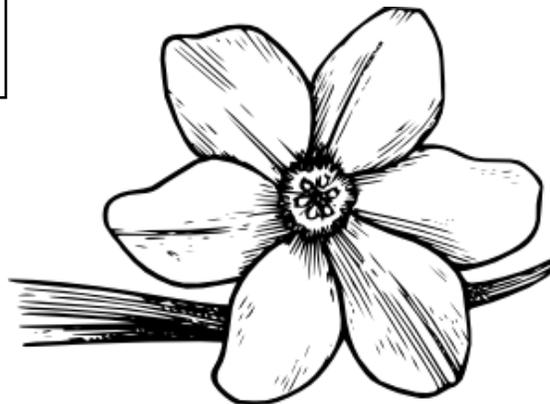
Pruning

Prune April flowering plants like azalea, lilac, and weigela late in April, after the flowers fade.

Prune berry producing shrubs like holly and pyracantha while in flower to prevent complete removal of all of this season's berries.

Prune spring flowering trees like Bradford pear, flowering cherry, and redbud if needed immediately after blooming.

Prune winter damaged plants and dead branches in late April.



Other Chores:

Spray for insects on azalea (lace bug), boxwood (leaf miner), camellia (tea scale) euonymus (scale), hemlock and juniper (spider mites), and hybrid rhododendron (borer).

Spray iris beds for iris borers.

Treat broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower with spinosad for worms.

Spray azaleas with the recommended fungicide to reduce azalea leaf gall.

Begin weekly tree fruit sprays after flower petals fall.

Start a fungicide spray program for your bunch grapes this month. Follow with weekly sprays.

Continue with rose spray program

Gardeners need to observe landscape and garden plants before spraying. Pests may not be present.

This is a good time to layer new plants by lowering a branch of your favorite shrubs and covering it with soil and a stone.

Mulch all of your landscape as needed. Pine needles, cypress mulch and pine bark are all good.

Prepare labels for all new plants and keep records on how well they perform.