

Spring Nature Notes:

Preparing your yard for growing season!



Trees: During the spring, trees are taking all the sugars and nutrients they have stored all winter and pushing all their resources and energy into growing new leaves, twigs, and roots. Now is the perfect time to plant new trees, or to transplant young trees and shrubs. This is also a great time to prune your shrubs, except those that bloom during spring.

Perennials and Bulbs: Like any other group of plants, there are spring and summer bulbs. Typically bulbs are planted in the fall to overwinter. Check these bulb beds to make sure the frost hasn't pushed them up, and keep them weeded. Plant any summer blooming bulbs. If you have perennial grasses and other plants, now is the time to trim away last

year's dead growth to make way for the young spring shoots! Just like trees and shrubs, now is a good time to divide and transplant your perennials.

Annuals and Containers: It is tempting to get started at the first hint of warm weather. But be sure to wait until the last frost of the season has passed. If you like to grow a vegetable garden, now is the time to plant your cool season vegetables like carrots, radishes, and leafy greens. If you grow from seed, you can begin to sprout your herbs and summer vegetables indoors until the last frost has passed.

Houseplants: Don't forget spring is growing season for most of your houseplants, too! If you want to divide your plants, you can root your cutting during spring. Trim your plants, and repot any that are getting too large for their pots. Fertilize your houseplants, and give any cacti some extra water in preparations for blooming during their 'rainy season'. While you are doing your spring housecleaning, don't forget to dust the leaves of your houseplants as well.

Birds: Clean out any birdhouses you may have to make way for this year's young. Over the course of the spring, you can keep feeding your birds and keep an eye out for the arrival of hummingbirds, and put out your hummingbird feeder come early summer. Watch out for birds that are just migrating through during the spring!

Compost: If you have a compost pile, don't forget to turn it over so it will continue composting when the warm weather returns.