

Getting Ready for Beautiful Gardens!

1. Prepare tools: clean, repair, buy new!

- Don't forget the lawnmower and other electrical tools

2. Flower Garden Spring Cleanup

- Clear away debris and old compost
- Cut away dead material from plants
 - i. Perennials like to be left alone before winter, so they need to be cut back in spring.
 - ii. Clear away dead plant material; should see some new growth already at base of plants
 - iii. Herbaceous plants have stems that are soft or succulent and green as opposed to brown and woody
 - iv. Roots of perennials are alive and well
 - v. Remove winter mulch and prune to ground level
 - vi. Annuals should be removed altogether.

3. Woody Perennials Flowers and Plants

- Artemesia, buddleia, lavender
- Cut back each spring—only bloom on new branches/prune in spring to limit winter damage and encourage new growth in spring
- Wait until danger of hard frost is past
- Look for opening buds on lower stems or new growth at the base—time to prune

4. Evergreen and Semi Evergreen Perennials

- Hellebores, Epimediums, heuchera, bearded iris
 - i. Retain their leaves over winter
 - ii. Trim back in spring all the tattered foliage—encourages new growth

5. Ornamental Grasses

- Cut back as soon as you can get to them
- No need to wait for new growth
- Cut to a few inches of the ground
- They will come back when they are ready

6. Roses

- In our climate, they go dormant over winter.
- Remove winter fertilizer, and leaves or mulch
- When buds begin to appear start to prune
 - Learn proper techniques for pruning roses

7. Trees and Shrubs

- Prune later in the spring
- Get rid of dead and diseased wood
- DO NOT PRUNE until after bloom season: azalea, spirea, forsythia, flowering crabapple, hawthorn, lilac, magnolia, rhododendron, serviceberry, mountain laurel, mock orange, deutzia, weigela
- PRUNE: Bradford pear, butterfly bush, crape myrtle, flowering dogwood, flowering pear, honeysuckle, redbud, wisteria

8. Evergreens

- Tidy up
- Fertilize: do not if soil is rich/every other year if so
- Use well balanced fertilizer (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium)
- Use food labeled for evergreens

9. Weed and Compost

- It's a never ending process—put weeds out on tree lawn for pickup
- Start a new compost cycle—use last years to top dress plants this year

10. Soil/Fertilizers

- Top dress with compost—black gold

11. Dividing and Transplanting

- Do as soon as possible after plant starts to emerge.

12. Staking Plants

- The sooner the better, it's easier on the plants.

13. Mulching and Edging

- Conserves waters
- Cools the plant's roots
- Feeds the soil
- Smothers weeds
- Layer of mulch is best practice
- Soil should be warm and not wet
- Keep mulch away from stems, crowns, new shoots of plants
- Volcanos and Inner Tubes of mulch design???!?
- Edging gives a polished look to garden beds and helps prevent grasses from creeping into flower and shrub areas.