

Early Spring

| late March | | April | |
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Lawn

- Rake the lawn to remove twigs, leaves, and trash.
- Apply preemergent herbicide in April to prevent crabgrass.
- Mow regularly at a height of 2½ to 3 inches for Kentucky bluegrass. Never remove more than ⅓ of the leaf blade at one time.

Fruits

- To control scale on fruit trees, apply a dormant oil spray when temperatures are above 40°F
- Remove mulch from strawberries in April as new growth begins.

Trees and shrubs

- Purchase and plant bare root nursery stock before buds break.

Flowers

- Start seeds of annual flowers for transplanting outdoors after danger of frost.
- Divide hosta and other summer and fall-blooming perennials as new growth appears (RG 319).
- Pot up stored bulbs and roots for a head start on blooms (RG 311, RG 315).

Herbs

- Start seeds of herbs, such as basil, for transplanting outdoors after danger of frost (RG 801).

Houseplants

- Repot houseplants, if needed, into a larger container.
- Begin fertilizing houseplants lightly.

Vegetables

- Plant broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, kohlrabi, and certified potato pieces outdoors in April.
- Acclimate seedlings grown indoors to outdoor temperatures and light levels prior to planting in garden.
- Do not work soil when it is saturated.

Late Spring

| May | | early June | |
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Lawn

- In preparation for hot, dry summer weather, raise mower height to 3 to 3½ inches.

Fruits

- Heavily bearing apple trees should be hand thinned within 6 weeks of bloom.

Trees and shrubs

- Prune spring-blooming shrubs (such as lilac, bridal wreath spirea, and forsythia) after blooming.

Flowers

- Do not remove the foliage of bulbs (such as tulip or daffodil) until it yellows and dies.

Herbs

- Fertilize lightly to promote new growth on sage, rosemary, and lavender.

Houseplants

- Move houseplants outdoors into a shady, protected location for the season, if desired.
- Water and fertilize regularly.

Vegetables

- Stagger plantings of beans and corn for extended harvest.
- Plant tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers after danger of frost has past. Stake or cage tomatoes to discourage foliar diseases (PM 608).
- Thin seedlings to prevent overcrowding and weak growth.

Early Summer

| June | |
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Lawn

- During dry weather, irrigate in the morning to allow the foliage to dry by afternoon.

Fruits

- Renovate June-bearing strawberry beds immediately after final harvest.
- Remove 3 to 4 inches of shoot tips of black and purple raspberry canes to encourage branching (RG 501).

Trees and shrubs

- Mulch to conserve moisture and prevent weed competition (RG 209, SUL 12).

Flowers

- Fertilize and water annual flowers regularly to promote growth and an abundance of blooms.
- Deadhead flowers to encourage more blooms.

Herbs

- Harvest leaves for cooking or drying before flowering.

Houseplants

- Wash leaves with warm, soapy water to remove dust.

Vegetables

- Stop harvesting asparagus and rhubarb by mid-June.
- Water weekly during dry weather.
- Control weeds by hand-pulling or hoeing.
- Regular irrigation of tomatoes will help prevent or reduce problems with blossom-end-rot.

Late Summer

| late August | | September | |
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Lawn

- Reseed bare patches or new lawns.
- Aerate lawns in areas with compacted or heavy clay soils.

Fruits

- Harvest pears as their color changes to lighter green.
- Prune suckers at ground level on grafted fruit trees.

Trees and shrubs

- Continue to water newly planted trees and shrubs as needed.
- Plant evergreen trees and shrubs (PM 1429g).

Flowers

- Harvest flowers from celosia, globe amaranth, and salvia for drying indoors (PM 1398).

Vegetables

- Continue harvesting beans, squash, cucumbers, and tomatoes to keep plants productive.
- Plant seeds of lettuce, spinach, and radish for harvest in fall.
- Harvest potatoes and onions as the tops yellow and die (PM 731, PM 1889, PM 1890).

Early Fall

| October | |
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Lawn

- Apply broadleaf herbicide to lawns.

Fruits

- Harvest apples and store at 32 to 35°F in humid areas (PM 1078).

Trees and shrubs

- Plant deciduous trees and shrubs.

Flowers

- Dig gladiolus corms and dahlia and canna roots for winter storage (RG 311, RG 315, RG 323).
- Harvest seed from cleome, poppies, zinnia, marigold, and other flowers to scatter next spring.
- Plant tulip, daffodil, and other spring-flowering bulbs before the ground freezes (RG 312).
- Take cuttings of coleus and geraniums to grow indoors for the winter (RG 320).

Herbs

- Before frost, pot up tender herbs (such as sage and rosemary) to grow indoors through the winter.

Houseplants

- Inspect plants for pests or disease.
- Bring plants indoors before the first frost.

Vegetables

- Harvest pumpkin, winter squash, and gourds as vines die from frost.

Late Fall

| November | |
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Lawn

- Fertilize lawns (1 pound N per 100 sq.ft.) to promote root growth and encourage early green-up in the spring.