

What to do in your garden

It's April again already! Feeding for the coming flower season is a consideration, lawns can still be fed. The hard work you do now will pay you back tenfold in just a few weeks.

As advised last month, give the lawns a spring feed. This can be any commercial form with a moss killer, a weed and feed with added nutrients/chemicals (nitrogen, phosphate, potassium and iron), with more chemicals to kill the moss and weeds. Or you can go the organic route, which already have the good nutrients, a general fish, blood and bone are also far better for the bees, other insects and the wildlife. Add a good layer of grass seed... inevitably the birds will enjoy some, so add a little extra for them.

Consider giving the lawn a not too short cut at the end of the month so that you and the wildlife can enjoy a no-mow May!

The growing season has begun, and perennials will be coming up. You can see what has survived the winter, add farmyard manure over the border, avoiding all new growth otherwise they may burn.

Again now's the time you can move perennials beforehand.

Day Lilies and Crocosmias are very good for splitting.

Geraniums, Achilleas, Sedum and daisy-headed

perennials (Echinaceas, Rudbeckias, Asters) are among many that can also be separated. Make sure no frosts are predicted in the next couple of days and water in after planting.

At the end of next month, summer bedding can go out, so start the lists now. How many spaces are there in the borders? Did your Pelargoniums survive last winter? What and how many pots/troughs do you have? Consider ordering your hanging baskets. Prune shrubs which have flowered, such as your Forsythia or Quince, to encourage new growth and a denser plant. To encourage bigger summer flowers, hard prune Hydrangea paniculata and the H. Anabelle's.

The old school forms only need the last year's flowers and stems reduced to the next bud; these are holding this year's flowers so don't prune too deep. Give your borders a feed, again blood, fish and bone is ideal, scatter on the soil and let the rains wash it in.

Take a look at your garden – is there an area which could be improved? Or all of it? We offer help with soils, hedges, and everything in between.



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