April Gardening Tips and Small Fruit Care  
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It seems that Spring is finally here, minus last week’s Winter storm. We can finally start preparing our soil to plant gardens! Utah State University Extension has an extensive list of resources for Utah gardeners.

- Cool season vegetables can be planted in the soil as soon as it is workable. A few cool season vegetables include; peas, lettuce, spinach, radishes, etc.
- Plant peas in the garden every 2-3 weeks to allow for an extended and continuous harvest. Continue planting until early May.
- Be aware of what hardiness zone you live in and what plants will thrive in your area.
- If you are purchasing started plants to transplant, purchase them from a reputable nursery to help ensure they are healthy.
- If you are noticing yellowing of leaves, apply iron chelate to combat iron chlorosis.
- If you have already planted and a late frost is expected, be sure to cover plants to protect them from late frost damage.
- Pre-emergent herbicides should be applied late March-mid April
- Check your sprinkler systems for leaks, check and replace all sprinkler heads, and clean filters.
- If your turfgrass is heavily compacted, aerate to allow for maximized growth.

Raspberries
- Plant bushes 18” to 24” apart in rows, plant rows 810 feet apart.
- Keep roots moist, but not wet. Do not over irrigate.
- Apply 1-2” of water every 5-7 days.
- Fall bearing raspberries have canes that bear fruit every year. They can be cut back and will grow more canes the following year. They can also be treated as ever bearing raspberries and the canes will produce fruit in the second year as well.
- June-bearing raspberries have two canes; last years growth, which will have fruit and this years growth.
- Prune any canes which will not have fruit this year.

Blackberries
- Should be pruned similar to June-bearing raspberries.
- Treils can be used to help support the plants.

Strawberries
- Ensure that your plants are virus free when you move them into your garden.
- Plant 6-8” apart and in rows 18” apart.
- Remember that the mother plants will be more productive than the daughters.
- Don’t water too deep as strawberries have a shallow root system.
- Most varieties require at least 10 hours of direct sunshine.
There are three types:
  - June-bearers: single crops, usually in June
  - Ever-bearers: two major crops (spring and fall)
  - Day neutral: early summer and late fall crops, as well as sporadic crops over the summer

Visit www.extension.usu.edu/yardandgarden for more information and tips!