

Blossoming into Spring: Your April Gardening Guide – Ask an Expert

Utah State University Extension
horticulturists

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Temperatures are warming, and soon it will be time to plant! Consider these tips to help you prepare. Included are tips and links from the Utah State University Extension [Gardeners Almanac](#).

- Plant seeds of [cool-season vegetables](#) (peas, lettuce, spinach, radishes) as soon as garden soil is workable.
- Check out over 55 vegetable and herb [fact sheets](#) produced by USU Extension.
- National Arbor Day is April 26 this year. Plant a tree to celebrate! The [USU Tree Browser](#) offers an interactive list of tree species adapted to the Intermountain West.
- Consider planting [peas in the garden](#) every 2-3 weeks (until early May) to extend the harvest.
- Now is a great time to learn how to plant and harvest [asparagus](#) and [rhubarb](#).
- Control young garden weeds by hoeing or hand-pulling.
- Protect fruit blossoms and tender garden plants from late [critical freezing temperatures](#).
- If storing bulbs, check to make sure they are firm, and remove any soft or rotten bulbs.
- Wait to prune roses until buds begin to swell to avoid late-frost damage to new growth.

- Prune spring flowering shrubs (those that bloom before June) after they have bloomed to encourage new flower buds for next season.
- Divide crowded, fall-blooming perennials.
- Divide cool-season ornamental grasses when new growth begins to emerge.
- Apply chelated iron (FeEDDHA) to plants that have had prior problems with [iron chlorosis](#).
- Use organic (wood chips or bark) [mulches](#) to retain soil moisture around shrubs and trees.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicides in late March to mid-April to control annual weeds such as crabgrass and surge in the lawn.
- Learn about [lawn care and planting](#).
- In compacted sites, aerate with a hollow core aerator when turfgrass is actively growing, usually from April to June.
- Check your [sprinkler system](#) for leaks. Clean filters and fix and align heads.

Pests and Problems:

- Download the [Utah Home Orchard Pest Management Guide](#).
- Learn about common problems in [apples, pears, plums, peaches and nectarines, cherries, and apricots](#).
- Reduce chemical use to help promote [beneficial insects](#) in your landscape.
- Treat for [coryneum blight](#) in stone fruits (cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots and plums) at shuck split, approximately 10 days after flower petals drop.
- Treat apples for [powdery mildew](#) when leaves are emerging (at 1/2 inch green) until June.
- Monitor wet weather during bloom in apples, pears, and hawthorns to determine if you need to treat for [fire blight](#).
- Treat fruit trees for [cat-facing insects](#) like stink bugs to prevent dimples and pucker marks in trees.
- Use preventative controls for [peach twig borer](#) in peaches, nectarines, and apricots to help reduce twig and fruit damage later in the season.
- Control spring-flying [bark beetles](#) in pine trees and other conifers.
- Protect birch trees previously infested by the bronze birch borer by applying a systemic pesticide.
- Watch for [cutworm damage in turfgrass](#) and new vegetable starts.
- Take an online [gardening course](#), and use promo code "Grow5" for \$5 off!
- Visit [garden.usu.edu](#) for information on gardening courses, growing and maintaining the yard and garden, drought resources, and more.

Contact

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