

THE APRIL LANDSCAPE GARDENER
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It's a busy time of year. . . Maintenance for April-

1. Begin mowing- bluegrass and turf type tall fescues prefer being cut at 2 ½” to 3” for the spring months and switching to 3-3 ½” as the hot weather comes in June to shade the turf. Mow at least once a week and leave the clippings on the lawn to decompose and return nutrients to the soil.
2. Pre-emergent lawn application should have been done by now. If not, do ASAP. If you seeded this spring you will have to use a product containing Tupersan , chemical name Siduron, (I have been hearing advertising for a new Scott's product that can be used with new seedings. You may want to try it) followed by the regular pre-emergent in 6 weeks after the newly seeded grass has grown enough to tolerate it.
3. Broadleaf weeds can most effectively be controlled late April through June. You need a large leaf area to hit (early sprays may miss some of the weeds that emerge late, such as the clovers and sedges) and the temperatures must not exceed 80-85 degrees before the spray dries. Broadleaf sprays should not be used close to desirable ornamental plants where overspray may do damage. Under trees should be done on an “as needed” basis only, as the material can be taken up by tree roots and do damage.
4. Edge and mulch planting beds. Mulch to a depth of 1-2”, no more. If old mulch is crusty, rake to break it up prior to applying the new layer. Too much mulch can exclude oxygen and water from the roots of desirable plants and encourage root growth into the mulch where the roots will die from the next winters' cold. Application of a pre-emergent weed control to the planting beds can reduce hand weeding later in the summer months, sometimes considerably.
5. Renewal prune plants, such as forsythia, which have already finished blooming. Forsythia can be controlled and kept manageable if cut to the ground every 2-3 years immediately after flowering.
6. Start monitoring for insect pests. If spotted, try to control with oils and biological agents. When targeted at young insect populations these controls are very effective and less hazardous to you and the environment. For a few aphids on your rose buds, using your fingers to crush these is an effective mechanical control that allows the predators time to catch up to the explosion of the aphid population. Once caught up the predators can keep the pest population in check,often for the remainder of the summer.

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