

# April Garden Calendar

## Vegetables and Fruits

Start fruit tree spray schedule when growth begins  
Plant carrots, onions, beets and other salad crops in early April  
Thin radishes, beets and carrots as needed  
Harvest asparagus until spear size decreases.  
Prune fruit trees if not already done  
Plant new fruit trees  
Plant asparagus and rhubarb  
Remove mulch from strawberry bed  
Prune raspberry and blackberry plantings  
Do not spray insecticides while fruits flower in order to protect the honeybees  
Plant beans, corn, vine crops in late April  
Cultivate to control seedling weed growth  
Turn the compost pile after a long winter rest  
Transplant broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage in the garden  
Fertilize vegetable garden before planting and incorporate

## Flowers

Remove winter mulch from perennial garden  
Cut back last year's growth from perennials  
Remove seed heads from spring bulbs  
Do not remove foliage from spring flowering bulbs as growth is needed for next year's flowers  
Fertilize spring flowering bulbs at leaf emergence  
Add organic matter such as compost before planting new flowers  
Divide perennials  
Plant new roses  
Prune rose bushes  
Fertilize rose bushes for spring growth  
Plant annuals from seed and transplants  
Plant summer bulbs

## Lawns

Apply crabgrass control by mid month  
Mow lawn as needed, bluegrass 2", tall fescue 3"  
Do not fertilize zoysia this early in spring, nutrients go to weeds not dormant grass  
Spot treat broadleaf weeds such as dandelions, henbit, and chickweed  
Check mower and make needed repairs before season begins  
Sharpen mower blade  
No need to catch grass clippings if mowing frequently  
Do not water unless extremely dry, early irrigation sets turf up as high water user in summer

## Trees and Shrubs

Prune spring flowering shrubs such forsythia and lilac after flowering  
Prune trees as needed, and repair winter storm damage  
Topping is not pruning, never top a tree  
Plant new trees and shrubs  
Remove grass from base of young trees and shrubs to prevent lawn mower and line trimmer damage  
Apply mulch layer around plants  
Keep new trees and shrubs watered  
Fertilize young trees to promote growth

## Local Horticulture Happenings:

Early April, City of Manhattan tree limb and brush residential pickup, for exact date and more information call 785-587-4540.

Celebrate Earth Day at the Sunset Zoo, visit [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net)

KSU Horticulture Club bedding plant sale.

Last Friday is Kansas Arbor Day, plant a tree or go on the Manhattan City Park Tree Walk.

## House Plants

Remove winter dust from leaves by gently rinsing with room temperature water  
Repot as needed, increase pot size by 1"  
Leach excess fertilizers from soil with water  
Begin summer fertilization of plants  
Do not move plants outside until night temperatures remain over 60 degrees  
Propagate house plants by cuttings or divisions  
Fertilize amaryllis and keep in bright light to encourage new leaves

## Miscellaneous

Average last spring frost in Manhattan, April 18, May 9 is 95% frost free date

### *Additional resources for the month:*

Planting Ornamental Trees and Shrubs MF-402

Shade and Ornamental Trees for Kansas MF-2688

Growing Roses MF-799

Weed Control in Home Lawn MF-2385

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