

Gardening Article

Yes, spring is officially here, so let the planting begin. Planting annuals and perennials by seed not only will provide a better variety of plants but will save you money. You may want to plant perennials like, candytuft, coneflower, coreopsis, and verbena or annuals like cleome, coleus, cosmos, impatiens, marigold, petunia, zinnia, or sunflower. Vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants may be planted from transplants, or seeds of squash, cucumbers, melons, beans, and corn are safe to plant once the threat of frost has departed. Plant the real heat lovers at the end of the month.

Warmer weather has finally arrived and its time to increase the water for your lawn to approximately 1 inch, 2 times per week. Severe pruning should not be done if hot weather threatens; however, spring flowering shrubs like, azaleas, forsythia, lilac, and camellias should be lightly pruned to shape after they have finished blooming (don't remove more than 1/3 of the growth). Acid lovers like, azaleas, rhododendrons, and camellias should also be fertilized with an acidic fertilizer once the blooming has ceased. Start controlling pests such as, aphids, snails, slugs, earwigs, mildew, and weeds. For aphid control try spraying them with pressurized water.

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