

Gardening Article

April is one of the most beautiful months on the calendar. The temperatures are perfect, and the garden is bursting into bloom. Most of the plants associated with our area are in full bloom this month. Our landscapes are painted with azaleas, cherry trees, spirea, and dogwoods just to mention a few. The dogwood's beautiful blooms should remind us to attend Winchester's 2nd Annual Dogwood Festival (April 7-9).

Spring fever is striking hard, and there are many days you just want to start planting, but be careful about planting tender annuals and vegetables to soon. Frosts are not uncommon in April. Our average last frost date is around April 12th.

Our lawns should be receiving about an inch of water two times a week now and deep soaking for trees should begin. Go ahead and fertilize citrus trees and subtropical plants. Feed acid lovers like azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons, and Japanese maples after they finish blooming. Plant begonias, glads, cannas, and sunflowers in stages for continuous bloom. Later in the month, after frost damage has passed, put in hibiscus and bougainvillea. This is a great month to plant vegetables and herbs, but be sure and wait to plant tender herbs and vegetables later in the month.

Be on the look out for aphids, snails, slugs, earwigs, and mildew. Catching these pests early will make fighting them throughout the summer much easier.

For more gardening information go to www.crownslandscaping.com