

Zone 8 - Monthly Garden Calendar

Chores and Planting Guide

April

- Measure the rainfall with a rain gauge posted near the garden so you can tell when to water. The garden needs about one inch of rain per week from April to September.
- Sow seeds of hardy annual flowers (calendula, clarkia, larkspur, California poppy, and sweet pea).
- Resist planting out warm season summer veggies until your last frost free date has come! Warm days can be deceiving.
- If you haven't already done so, sow seeds indoors for eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes. Continue to sow seeds outdoors for the following crops: beets, carrots, chard, kohlrabi, leaf lettuce, mustard, onion sets, parsnips, peas, potatoes, radish, spinach, and turnip.
- Add organic matter to soil to improve soil tilth and drainage.
- Fertilize perennial flowers now as growth is beginning. Most will only need fertilizing every three years and only at this time of year.
- Keep "hilling up" potatoes.
- Sow more carrots and lettuce early this month, and mulch potatoes with 6 inches of straw.
- At midmonth, start sowing sweet corn, cucumbers, summer squash, and bush beans, as well as herbs. You can start seeds indoors of okra, pumpkin, cucumber, summer and winter squash, and melons. Sow vine crops in individual peat pots since these do not transplant well if roots are disturbed.
- Set out annual flowers, and plant dahlias.
- Fill the backs of sunny flowerbeds with tall sunflowers or tithonia