April Gardening Guide 101

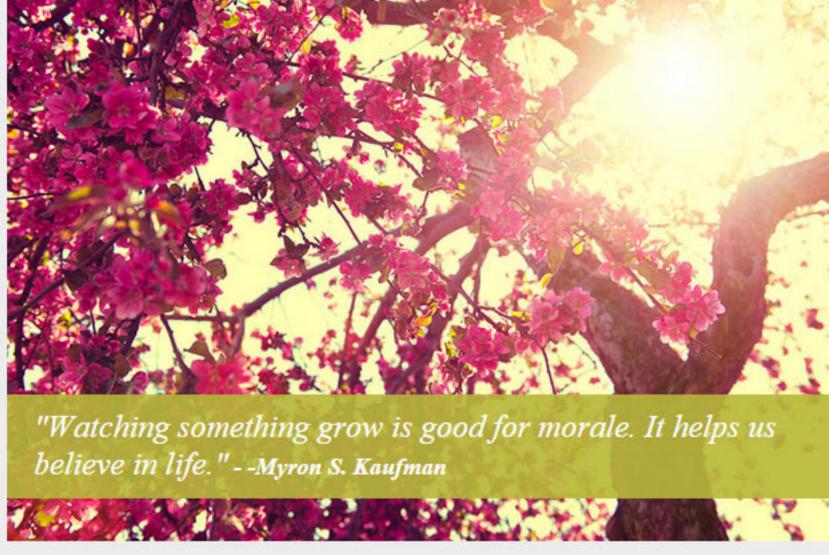


Fig trees can be pruned to get rid of any branches damaged during winter. Cut back long bare branches to 2 inches to encourage new growth

Prune

- Flowered shoots of hydrangeas and winter jasmine can now be pruned back. Evergreen and deciduous shrubs can be pruned back to encourage new growth and
- ensure optimum health for the upcoming year Peaches and apricot fruitlets should be thinned out as the trees produce more than
- they can cope with. Thinning should start when fruitlets are the size of large peas Perennials and ornamental grasses should be cut back to make way for new growth
- Any daffodils and tulips which have finished flowering should now be deheaded.
- Container grown evergreens can be moved to the garden as they establish best in

spring

Plant

Chitted potatoes should now be ready to be planted outside ✓ Tomato seeds can be sown indoors. Once all risk of frost has passed, they can be

Peas, broad beans, root veg, salad and hardy herbs can all be sown from early April

- planted outdoors
- Harvest
- Asparagus spears can be harvested now this should be done before they reach 18cm

Rhubarb can be harvested from early April. Pull the stems rather than cut to avoid the remaining stump from rotting

Miscellaneous

- Onions, kale, leeks and broccoli can all be harvested if ready Early sown salad can be harvested now. Cut off the leaves, leaving the plant, to encourage regrowth
- Roses, fruit trees and shrubs should be mulched after a wet spell to help protect the soil from drying out during hot and dry spells

Strawberry plants will be coming out of dormancy. Ensure they are well watered and

Dig over bare soil with a fertiliser to de-weed and prepare for planting

fed a high potassium fertiliser to encourage growth

the plants and support new growth

- Clear out your greenhouse of any plant debris and disinfect and wash the benches and glass. Keep the greenhouse ventilated to prevent stale air
- Gardener's Advice

Climbing roses and, honey suckle and clematis should be tied to their supports to train

germinating seeds. It provides an extra layer of insulation which protects from extreme temperature fluctuations that can occur in

Julian

Jean Vernon

http://www.hartley-botanic.co.uk/author/jeanvernon

Use Vermiculite for germinating seeds



When you're planting up your pots for the summer, do change the soil completely. It's tempting just to scrape the top bit off, then add some new compost. But the heucheras blew off my pots like Ascot hats in the wind last year. I hadn't changed the soil in the pot properly - giving

Vermiculite is a really useful ingredient to add to your soil in April for

spring. It also lets in light, retains moisture without waterlogging, and

www.thegardenimpressionists.wordpress.com

Change the soil in your pots

then releasing the heat overnight, helping germination and growth.



DON'T ever plant climbers with different flowering times so close

together that they grow into each other. Different flowering times mean

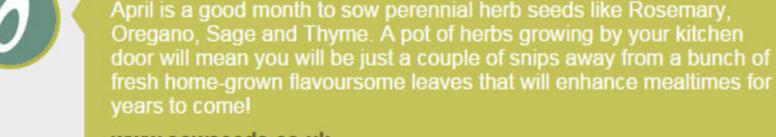


Don't plant climbers close together

that will help you to figure out what the weeds growing in your garden are. Some weeds are edible and you could be throwing away an unusual salad option. Once you can identify a weed it's easier to know how to manage it and could be the difference between a garden full of

weeds during the next growing season or not.

www.greensideup.ie/dees-vegetable-blog



Sow perennial herbs for flavouring meals

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with polythene and apply weedkiller.

www.sowseeds.co.uk Debbie

back the length gradually -cut no more than 30% off the total height at any one time to avoid scalping the lawn. Sow lawn seed on any bare patches and apply a high nitrogen fertiliser and lawn weed killers to encourage a healthy summer lawn.

Catch any early perennial weeds now before they flower and spread

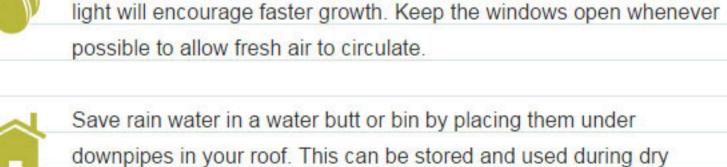
seeds. Dig over flower and vegetable beds to turn over any new

growth. If digging over the beds aren't an option, pull up the weeds

by hand to prevent it from spreading seed, or cover nearby plants

House plants will require more water as the warm weather and longer

Mow your grass at least every fortnight to prevent overgrowth. Cut





Check fruit trees for infestations or diseases, and use an oil-based

spray or wash on any showing signs of pests. Avoid unnecessary

spraying on trees not showing infestation as it may kill beneficial

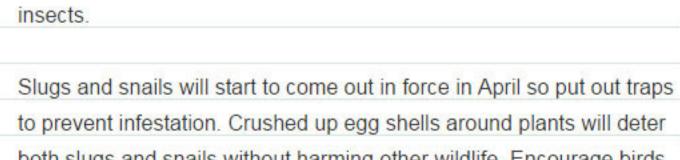
the nutrients needed to grow throughout the warmer months.

spells, and will save you money compared to using drinking water.

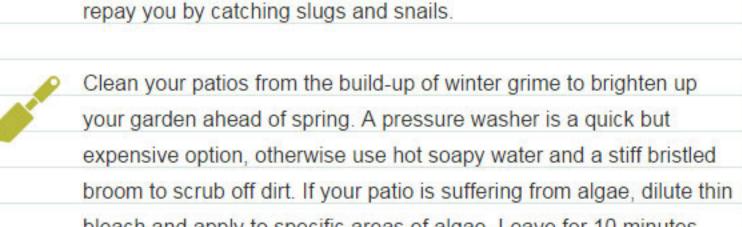
Empty out your greenhouse one afternoon and clear any debris, soil

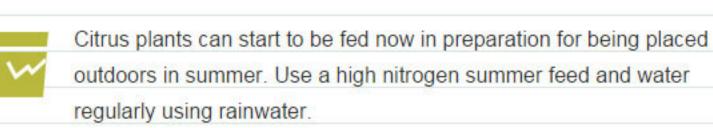
and dirt. Fully wash and disinfect the benches and glass, both inside

and outside, to allow a sterile environment with plenty of light for any



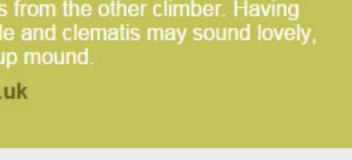
into the garden with full bird baths and seeds or fat balls. They will



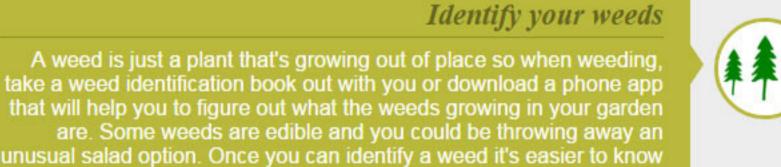


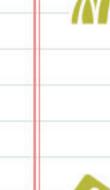






is sterile.





Top 10 Tips for April





both slugs and snails without harming other wildlife. Encourage birds



bleach and apply to specific areas of algae. Leave for 10 minutes before rinsing off; be careful not to get any of this bleach solution near your plants!

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