

April

- Now is the time to divide mint, chive, tarragon and creeping thyme.
- Plant chervil, coriander, dill, rosemary and summer savory outside after the last spring frost date.
- Warm season grasses, including Bermuda grass, zoysia grass and centipede grass, should be fertilized with 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet of quickly available nitrogen fertilizer. Repeat in May and June.
- Control lawn weeds now through late May before they get large and temperatures get too high to apply herbicides safely.
- The first grass clippings of the season are rich in nutrients and contain fewer weed seeds than those collected later. Put them in the compost pile or mow frequently and leave them on the ground.
- Don't mow the lawn until it has grown at least two inches. The roots are being renewed in the spring and grass needs vigorous top growth initially.
- Plant grass seed to fill bare spots in your lawn.
- Fertilize bulbs upon emergence of foliage with a 10-10-10- fertilizer, using a rate of 3 pounds per 100 sq ft.
- Lift, divide, and replant chrysanthemums as soon as new shoots appear. Pinch out the top when plants are about 4" to thicken plant.
- Take chrysanthemum cuttings now through mid-June.
- Chickweed *Stetlaria media* is native to Europe, but has naturalized in all the temperate regions of the world. It roots easily along the stem and produces flowers and seeds from March through December. It can be controlled by hoeing early when the plants are still small.
- Plant dahlia tubers as soon as the danger of frost is passed. Stake at the time of planting to avoid injury to tubers.
- Plant clematis in locations that receive at least 6 hours of sunshine a day. Use an organic mulch or ground cover to shade roots and keep them cool.
- Clean up plants and flower beds. Pick out dead leaves and twigs and prune dead limbs.
- Label clumps of daffodils that are too crowded. Overcrowding inhibits blooming. Dig up and separate in July.

- Cut flower stalks of daffodils, hyacinths and other spring flowering bulbs as the flowers fade. Allow the foliage to remain until it dies naturally. The leaves are necessary to produce strong bulbs for next year's bloom.
- The garden needs 1" of rain of rain per week from April to September.
- Prune roses to buds that point outward to encourage good air and sunlight penetration. Dark-colored canes indicate dead wood. Cut back to an inch below these darkened areas.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs after they have completed flowering.
- Do not fertilize azaleas and camellias until they have finished blooming. They also should be pruned after blooming.