

## April in the garden ...To Do List

- When you see the buds on your Hydrangea begin to swell, prune Hydrangea stems to two healthy buds, cut out a few old stems right down to thin out any weak stems.
- deadhead Daffodils once the blossoms have withered but do not cut foliage. As much as you can, let the foliage yellow and wither before removing ... the bulb needs about 6 weeks to replenish so it can bloom again next spring.
- The ideal time for pruning your roses is when the Forsythia is in bloom...
- prune Forsythia once blooms have finished , cut out dead wood and older stems. New growth will bring next years blossoms.
- protect new growth of Hosta from slug and snail damage....copper rings, smashed eggshells work
- as Hellebores fade cut back flower stems , new leafy growth emerging , feed every 2 weeks until mid-June
- start to harden off annuals ,(keep protected at night) for planting in May
- continue to sow seeds of hardy annuals where you want them to flower
- plant out sweet pea seedlings and set support in place.
- Plan supports for perennial plants....(twigs , canes and ties cages ) that need support. ie: paeonia, Flag irises may need support as well
- Tidy Camelia shrubs and prune if needed to shape and for size control
- Shear summer flowering Heather, encourage new growth
- Begonias can be started in pots ready to plant out in May
- Plant early potatoes, lettuce ,endive ,kohlrabi.....sow beans indoors or under glass...Tomatoes still need protection.
- Early spring blooming perennials can be split and replanted , also snowdrops if not done yet.( snowdrops best transplanted as clumps rather than by bulb)
- Mulch trees and shrubs.
- Any bare root Roses should be planted or potted up!
- Make plans for your garden pots of annuals. Soon you will be wanting to replace spring bulbs and primulas for colourful plants that will take you through to the fall. Many beautiful combinations are available and will brighten the garden in summer heat. Replace the soil in containers with fresh potting soil.
- Plant all the new treasures you found at the PGC plant sale!
- As always...weed!