



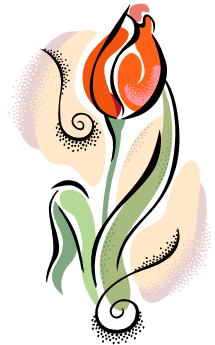
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## SPRING Checklist

*Get up and Grow!*



**Plan** your cool-season vegetable garden to include peas, lettuce and perennials like rhubarb and asparagus. (Check your crop rotation schedule.) Start seed indoors to give a jump start to warm season plants.

**Weed:** Warmer days will encourage weeds to flower and go to seed; then you'll be battling them all year! Most weeds can be easily yanked out of the damp soil. The more persistent ones like horsetail or morning glory may need an herbicide.

**Clean Up** winter debris ~ old leaves, fruit, etc. Trim back dead stems of old perennial growth. Work in winter mulch if well composted.

**Prune** dead/diseased branches from shrubs and thin over-crowded branches. Prune spring-blooming shrubs when or immediately after blooming. Trim and feed roses.

**Amend:** While we're all eager to get planting, it's well worth the time and effort to prepare your garden bed first. TEST your soil to see if specific amendments are necessary. TIP: It's helpful to work the enriched soil into your existing soil instead of just dumping it on the surface. You'll create a transition zone for your plants that will encourage their roots to grow deeper and stronger.

**Chop** the cover crop foliage you planted last fall. The top-growth returns organic matter to the soil while the roots restore the open texture of compacted soil.

**Feed** your evergreen plants lightly if you haven't already done so. They'll be hungry after a winter's nap. House plants will be entering their active growth stage, so pinch them back to rejuvenate and give a diluted drink of water-soluble fertilizer. Trim and feed roses; also treat with fungicide to prevent blackspot. Feed bulbs as they start to bloom.

**Patrol** for garden pests that are emerging from their long winter's nap. Weevils and slugs are hatching and are they hungry! Moles and voles may make cute stuffed toys but frustrated gardeners may want to just stuff them, period!

**NOTE:** March is unpredictable, so continue to keep an eye on weather forecasts. If a cold snap is expected, provide some protection to tender plants by covering them with frost cloth. Remember to remove the covering as soon as the weather turns milder.