

Alabama  
Gardener's  
Calendar

## April

► Learn—month by month—the necessary gardening activities for lawns and shrubs, annuals and perennials, fruit and nut trees, and bulbs, roots, and tubers. Included is a timeline for activities such as soil testing, planting, pruning, fertilizing, pruning, mulching, indoor plantings—from cauliflower to okra, from camellias to dahlias to heirloom roses.

### Fruits and Nuts

- Season for strawberry planting continues.
- Start spray program for all fruits.
- Plant raspberries and blackberries and continue budding apples and peaches.

### Shrubs

- Prune spring flowering shrubs after flowering.
- Fertilize azaleas and camellias.
- Spray all shrubs with a fungicide as new growth begins to mature.

### Lawns

- Planting new lawns continues.
- When daytime temperatures are consistently above 70 degrees F, apply fire ant bait. Read the label carefully for best control.
- Start a mowing routine as spring growth begins.
- Monitor the thatch layer in bermudagrass and zoysiagrass lawns. Dethatch if thicker than ½ inch. Wait until active growth.
- Monitor for fungal disease in wet, cool weather.
- Fertilize warm-season lawns after fully green.

### Roses

- Watch for insects and diseases.
- Keep old flower heads removed.
- Plant container-grown plants from nurseries or garden centers.



### Annuals and Perennials

- Plant early started annuals or bedding plants from nurseries or garden centers.
- Divide mums or root cuttings. Dig and divide dahlias.

### Bulbs

- Plant gladiolus, fancy-leaved caladiums, milk and wine lilies, and ginger and gloriosa lilies.
- Apply super phosphate to bearded iris and scout for iris borer moth caterpillars.
- Avoid cutting foliage of narcissus or other bulbs until it has turned brown naturally.

### Miscellaneous

- Spray camellias, hollies, etc., for scale insects.
- Carefully water new plantings of shrubs and trees.
- Pinch out tips of new shoots to promote more compact shrubs.

## Vegetable Seeds

- **South:** Plant heat-loving crops, such as okra. Continue planting other frost-tender crops.
- **South and Central:** Continue planting frost tender vegetables (beans, southern peas, corn, squash, melons, and cucumbers).
- **North:** Wait until late April to plant beans, cucumbers, melons, southern peas, and squash. Plant sweet corn each week for a staggered summer harvest.

## Vegetable Transplants

- **Whole state:** Plant transplants of tomato, pepper, and eggplant.
- **South:** Plant certified sweet potato slips.
- **North and Central:** Plant sweet potato slips in late April.

## Questions?

Call the Master Gardener Helpline at (877) 252-4769. A Master Gardener Extension volunteer is waiting to answer your call.



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