Angelo's Gardening Guides

Spring Gardening Checklist

☐ Clean/Tune-up/Sharpen power tools and hand tools; Inventory irrigation parts, hoses, sprayers, etc.

☐ Inventory garden necessities: soil amendments, mulches, fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides

☐ Start seeds indoors with sterile containers, pre-moistened seed starting soil, and a warm, sunny spot.

☐ Rake and remove debris from lawn

☐ Dethatch lawn if needed (1/2" or more exists), removing decaying grass and increasing air circulation.

☐ Test soil pH of lawn (6.0-7.0), add lime if lower than 6.0. Apply 50lbs. per 1000 sq.ft. to raise pH by five tenths (.5)

☐ Re-seed lawn if needed (grade, seed, rake it in, cover with ¼" soil, use a starter fertilizer, water).

☐ Fertilize lawn with a 1st step fertilizer (Crabgrass pre-emergent) around Easter, when lilacs start blooming or by the 3rd to 4th mowing. If you re-seeded in spring, use a pre-emergent fertilizer safe for new lawns.

☐ You can apply Ironite to lawns at this time for additional nutrients and greening.

☐ Wait to prune spring flowering trees and shrubs until after they bloom.

☐ Prune to remove any suckering growth, water sprouts, crossing, weak or damaged limbs.

☐ Most evergreens can be selectively pruned or sheared when their new growth or "candles" develop by late spring.

☐ Prune roses, hydrangea, and clematis down to the uppermost bud that develops.

☐ Cut back any remaining perennial stalks, including ornamental grasses down to 3"-6".

☐ Rake and remove debris from garden beds, including any winter protection materials

☐ Start a compost pile with spring clippings and organic debris from your clean-up

☐ Test soil pH of garden (5.5-7.5), add lime if below 5.5, add soil sulfur if above 7.5.

☐ Weed the garden by hoeing, tilling, cultivating, or by using a spot spray herbicide like Round-up.

☐ Soil in garden beds should be workable 10-12" deep, incorporate 2-3" of organic matter each spring or try Soil Perfector by Espoma to achieve better drainage and workability.

☐ Let garden soil settle for at least 2 weeks before planting

☐ Apply Bulb-tone or Bone Meal to spring bulbs as they emerge.

☐ Fertilize your other perennials as they start to emerge with Whitney Farms All Purpose Plant Food/or Osmocote.

☐ Transplant and divide mid-summer to fall bloomers in the spring (opposite season they bloom).

☐ When transplanting always dig a large circumference and depth of a root ball to keep that plant viable. Re-plant in a well-drained, amended spot, fertilize, and keep watered (1" per week).

☐ Start planting trees and shrubs when the soil is workable and they are available at the garden center.

☐ Start planting perennials when the soil has been cultivated and settled for 2 weeks, and they are available at the garden center. Protect tender foliage in a heavy frost or freeze.

☐ Plant tender annuals, vegetables, bulbs, tropicals, herbs, and most seeds being started outdoors after the last chance of frost, and after the soil has been cultivated and settled for 2 weeks.

☐ When planting any plant, dig the hole the depth of the growers container, but slightly wider for backfill space. Separate the roots of the plant, place in the hole and backfill with a mixture of 2 parts existing clay soil and 1part organic matter (planting mix, compost, etc.)

☐ Mulch no more than 2" to suppress weeds and retain soil moisture

☐ Cover any plant that has new, tender foliage or flowering growth with a light, breathable material (like frost cloth, row covers, or an old sheet) in the chance of frost or a freeze.

☐ Use Mole-Max to treat moles in the lawn and voles in the garden beds

☐ Repel the deer with Plantskydd. It is organic, long lasting (up to 6 months in winter) & provides beneficial Nitrogen

☐ Fill a spring container with early bloomers, pansies, primrose, and blooming bulbs.

☐ Start cleaning-up houseplants, transplant now if needed, and fertilize come April 1st.

☐ Clean statuary, fountains and birdbaths with a diluted bleach solution in water.

☐ Repair any miscellaneous plant supports, trellis, fencing, etc.

☐ Uncover patio furniture, wipe down with a mild soap solution and remove cushions/umbrellas out of storage

Petitti Garden Centers

Please visit us online @ *www.petittigardencenter.com* for the complete library of Angelo's Gardening Guides.