

Spring Gardening Checklist

By Jake R Brady

- Tools
 - Let your lawnmower to have the oil changed, bolts tightened and blades sharpened.
 - Inspect your gardening tools.
 - Remove soil from your tools' metal parts.
 - Sharpen your tools.
 - Rub the metal parts with olive oil to lubricate them.
- Lawn
 - Assess your lawn's health.
 - Purchase Test kits for soil testing.
 - Take your lawn sample to an expert at your garden store and ask for a diagnosis.
 - Lime, treat moss and, finally, reseed as needed.
 - Fertilize your lawn.
 - Get rid of weeds as they sprout.
 - Consult an expert in your area for dealing with persistent pests.
- Soil
 - Remove mulch over the course of several days, exposing the soil gradually.
 - Till or spade soil 6 to 12 inches deep.
 - Mix in compost, peat moss and fertilizer for plants or vegetables.
 - Rake the soil level to smoothen out low spots.
- Seeding and Planting
 - Choose neighboring vegetables carefully.
 - Plant some perennial vegetables right in your rich new soil.
 - Later in the month seed or set out hardier vegetables.
 - Be sure the seedlings get lots of light.
 - Plant fruit trees and berries (from late March into April).
 - Set out or plant new roses and cool-loving flowers.