

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.