

## Gardening Tips for spring from HomeAdvisor

The sun is shining, birds are singing and it's time for your garden to come back from the winter weather. Your garden needs some help getting back in shape, though, so it's time to get the supplies from the home improvement store, pull out the tools from the shed and get to work. Here are some tips for your getting your spring garden green and beautiful by the time the season reaches its peak:



**1. Clean out the garden-** It's time to clean your garden and remove all the debris (leaves, leftover snow, etc.) Get rid of weeds, making sure that you get the roots so they won't grow back.

**2. Revitalize the soil-** Because your soil is likely dried out and packed after winter, it's time to add moisture. You might also need to add more fertilizer to increase the health of the soil and increase the life of your plants.

**3. Trim old plants-** Plants that survived the winter will need to be pruned so they'll grow anew in the spring. Make sure to wait until mid-April or May in case there's an unexpected freeze. Blooming plants should be pruned right after they bloom to avoid cutting off future flowers. Summer plants should be pruned in early spring.

**4. Add Mulch-** In addition to fertilizers and organic materials, you should think about adding mulch to your flower beds and garden. One to three inches of mulch helps to prevent weeds and diseases. It also keeps the moisture in the garden and maintains the temperature. The rule of thumb is to keep the mulch a few inches from the plant stems to prevent roots from rotting.

**5. Plant new flowers and shrubs-** Once you've gotten the garden in shape and handled all of the old plants, it's time to turn your attention to new plants. Some recommendations for good spring plants include:

- Vegetables like lettuce, peas and arugula
- Transplanting tomato plants from indoor pots to outside
- Lilacs            • Pansies            • Redbuds
- Tulips            • Snapdragons

**Raised garden spots are available in the Gazebo Area. If you would like one please sign up in Susie's Office.**



## APRIL

### HISTORICAL EVENTS

- 4** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is signed. **1949**
- 4** Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated. **1968**
- 6** Explorers Matthew A. Henson and Robert E. Perry are the first to reach the North Pole. **1909**
- 6** The first modern Olympic games opens in Athens, Greece **1896**
- 9** Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse **1865**
- 12** Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first person in space. **1961**
- 14** President Abraham Lincoln is shot at Ford's Theater. **1865**
- 15** The Titanic hits an iceberg in the Northern Atlantic ocean and sinks. **1912**
- 18** The Great San Francisco earthquake hits, killing 700 people. **1906**
- 25** Delegates from 45 countries meet in San Francisco to organize the United Nations. **1945**

## April Fools!!!

There are many different stories about how April 1st came to be celebrated as April Fool's Day, but the most widespread one is based on the calendar. Long ago, in the year 1582, Pope Gregory the XIII introduced a new calendar, the Gregorian calendar. This calendar started the New Year on the 1st of January. But back then, information took time to spread. So for a long time, many people did not know about the change in calendar and some refused to accept it. Those people continued to celebrate the New Year on the 1st of April. The people who had accepted the new calendar now started making fun of these non-believers. They would lead them to believe in things that did not exist or even send them on fool's errands. Errands that did not exist! Eventually, the new calendar was accepted worldwide but the pranks continued. Friends and relatives often play tricks on their loved ones on the 1st of April. It's harmless fun that usually ends with the pranksters shouting "April Fool" and peels of laughter.

My husband and I were daydreaming about what we would do if we won the lottery. I started: "I'd hire a cook so that I could just say, 'Hey, make me a sandwich!'" He shook his head. "Not me. I already have one of those."

Q. Why is everyone so tired on April 1?  
Because they've just finished a long, 31 day March!



Now that I've lived through an actual plague, I totally understand why Italian Renaissance paintings are full of naked, fat people laying on couches.

Every year since 1986, New York City has issued press releases for the April Fools' Day Parade. It doesn't exist.

Q: How do you make Easter easier?  
You replace the "t" with an "i"

**Monthly Musings...**

April is national poetry month and this year, 2021, marks the 25th annual celebration of poets and poetry. I have always loved poetry, and I even write a little. I find the ebb and flow of it to be a soothing way to deal with my own emotional turmoil in times of stress. For this reason most of what I write tends to be on the sadder side of life, but while I was a nanny ‘my kids’ each did a poetry unit in school and a lot of what I wrote while goofing around and helping them with homework ended up being rather light and funny. Personally I think I had more fun with their assignment than they did!

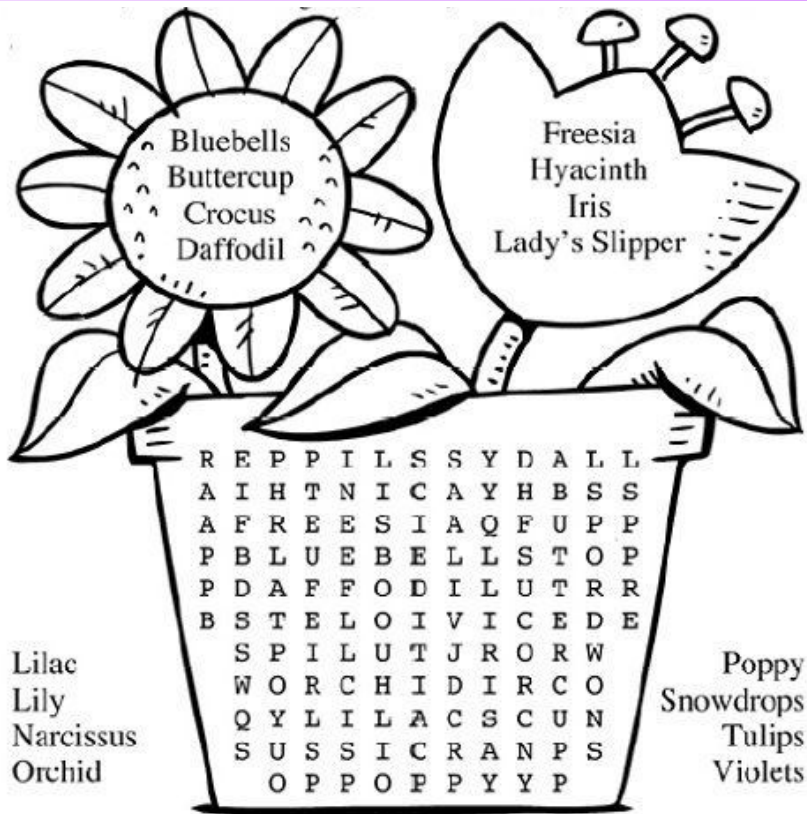
Do you like to write poetry or want to try your hand at writing a poem? Come to our POETRY WORKSHOP on Monday, April 12, in the dining room. We will be experimenting with writing a couple of different types of poems. If this is new to you, don’t be shy... it will be a group effort and we’ll help!

If you have a favorite poet or poem, or if you have written one of your own, bring those poems down to our APRIL POETRY READING on Thursday, April 29, and read them (or have one of us read them for you). The poetry reading is open for everyone who wants to listen as well as read.

We will be resuming R.E.A.D., our book club where a book is read aloud to the group. We will be starting with different poetry selections during the month of April, all are welcome to attend.

With spring here at last (hopefully!) what better way to welcome it in than with flowers? Join us for our 2-part craft this month where we will be painting a pot and then planting the seeds to watch them grow.

~ Tristan J.B.



Oh to watch the seeds  
Wake from their earthly dwelling  
And shoot for the sky

Like a little child  
They grow where they are planted  
With no thought to why

With pride they shall grow  
Some cared for and others wild  
Pretty flowers all

Happy to be seen  
Each as special as the next  
Hoping to enthrall

With petals lifted  
A brilliant rainbow for the  
People passing 'round

All the flowers try  
To be the fairest of those  
Growing from the ground

And like the little child  
They have no greater purpose  
Beyond being loved

~ T.J.B. ~

*Welcome to  
Hill Street Place's  
Newest Tenant:*



**Myrna Seanor  
Apt. 220**

**Last month at a glance...**

