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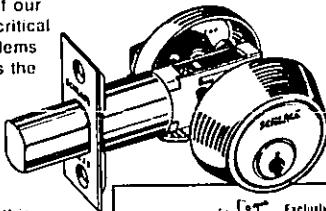
We have the Answers to Outdoor Decorating Problems from Effective Plantings to Proper Care

Our landscape techniques can help with selection of the right trees, shrubs and plants for your yard. They will visit your home and assist in planning the positioning of your trees, plants and shrubs. If bolstering or accent with railroad ties or stones will be effective, we can provide these items, as well. We have a complete landscape service which includes pruning, planting, patios, retaining walls and landscape design.

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If it's April, it's . . .

If April showers are to bring May flowers, Mother Nature will need a hand to get the growing season off on the right foot.

Michigan State University Extension specialists suggest the following activities are timely:

- Have your garden soil tested and follow soil test recommendations on the need for lime and plant nutrients.
- As soon as the soil is dry enough to work, get flower and vegetable gardens ready for planting. (If you squeeze a handful of soil and it crumbles apart when you release it, it's dry enough to work.) Spade or till in lime, if needed, fertilizer and organic matter.
- Plant cool-weather crops this month. Sow seeds of lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard, radishes, carrots, onions, beets, turnips and peas. Plant seed potatoes for early potatoes and transplants of cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli and Kohlrabi. Or grow your own transplants for a fall crop from seeds planted outdoors.
- Plant asparagus, Jerusalem artichoke and rhubarb off to one side of the garden so they won't be in the way when you work up the rest of the garden for annual crops.
- Six to eight weeks before the average date of the last spring frost in your area, sow seeds of some warm-season crops indoors. These include tomatoes, peppers and eggplant. Start melons and cucumbers four weeks before the frost

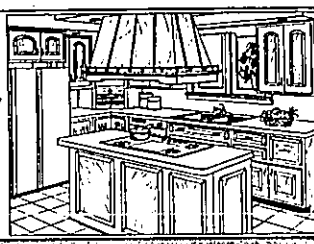
free date in individual peat pots or pellets so you don't have to disturb their roots at planting time.

- Fertilize perennial flowers.
- Begin in late April to plant gladioli weekly through June for a supply of cut flowers through the summer.
- As soon as you can work the soil, sow seeds of sweet alyssum, flowering tobacco, portulaca, petunia, bachelor button, anchusa, larkspur, browallia, calendula, California poppy, cynoglossum and cosmos outdoors.
- Plant lily bulbs and dormant roses.
- Keep Easter lilies growing so you can plant them outdoors after the danger of frost is past.
- Roll severely frost-heaved turf after the frost is out of the soil but before the lawn dries out completely.
- As soon as the lawn is dry enough to mow, remove old, dry grass blades. Mow to a height of one inch. Begin mowing regularly to a length of 1 1/4 to two inches when the grass turns green and begins to grow again.
- If you had crabgrass problems in your lawn last year, apply a pre-emergence herbicide labeled for crabgrass control about the time the forsythia begins to bloom.
- Hold off fertilizing home lawns until May or even early June. There appears to be a connection between early spring fertilization and the development of Fusarium blight in susceptible blue grass varieties. Stronger root systems develop

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