

DIX GARDEN CENTER BY MCII

GARDEN CHECKLIST FOR SPRING

1. Pull those weeds and rake those beds.
2. Prune summer blooming, flowering shrubs. (butterfly bush, hydrangea, rose of sharon, crape myrtle, spirea, roses)
3. Fertilize or compost your beds 2-3 weeks before planting..
4. Remove damaged limbs or branches from trees or shrubs.
5. Get rid of dead perennial leaves to make way for new.
6. Start planning for your new plants.

THE BEE FRIENDLY GARDEN

Bees are vital for the preservation of ecological balance and biodiversity in nature. Bees play a major part in pollination. Bees pollinate three quarters of the plants that produce 90% of the world's food. Here is a list of bee friendly plants for your garden.

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| 1. Bee balm | 9. Sunflower |
| 2. Great blue lobelia | 10. Butterfly bush |
| 3. Lavender | 11. Marigold |
| 4. Chives | 12. Nasturtium |
| 5. Daisy | 13. Catmint |
| 6. Snapdragon | 14. Alyssum |
| 7. Coneflower | 15. Poppies |
| 8. Black eyed Susan | |

GARDENING - Cheaper than therapy!

REMEMBER THE OLD ADAGE OF PERENNIALS:

The first year they sleep, the second year they creep, and the third year they leap.

GARDEN TIPS AND TRICKS

1. Find the right spot. Location is key.
2. Follow the sun. Most edible plants need at least 6-8 hours of sun. Flowers have different sun requirements.
3. The vegetable garden needs 1" - 2" of rain/water per week. Flowers have different water requirements.
4. Be sure you know the mature size of each plant to allow for growth.
5. When transplanting your plants dig a hole that's twice as wide as the soil ball of the plant.
6. Train vining plants (melon, squash, cucumbers) to a vertical trellis or fence to save space.
7. Milk jugs, soda bottles, plastic containers make great mini-covers to place over tender plants for surprise frost protection.
8. Earthworms are great for aerating garden soil.
9. A simple 5% increase in organic material quadruples the soil's ability to store water.
10. Use companion planting (see additional article).
11. Use a shallow pan of beer to trap slugs and snails.
12. Old pantyhose are great for tying up plants.

