Garden Basics

Start weeding before flowering takes place.

Clean out and prepare garden beds and add compost.

Fertilize your garden per a soil test - Test soil every 3-5 years.

Apply lime per soil test.

Propagate and divide perennials like daylily, rudbeckia, coneflower and Shasta daisy.

Clean and oil garden equipment.

Repair hardscape like arbors, trellis, steps, walls, etc.

Look for moles, voles, chipmunks, groundhogs and rabbit pest.

Spray for deer.

Remove leaves, branches and cut back perennials and grasses before bulbs start growing from beds.

Maintain good hygiene in beds.

Diseased plant material should have been removed already and not composted.

Clean out your pond and birdbaths. Start feeding fish when water temp hits consistent 50 degrees.

Put out supports like trellis and stakes.

Plants your spring containers and borders.

Feed your soil with compost and organic fertilizer.

Watch for freezing or cold nights. Do not cover with plastic. Sheets work great or rags.

Mulch the garden.

Lawns

Fertilize cool season grass with 10-10-10 if not done in February.

Use crabgrass pre-emergent.

Mow tall fescue lawn.

Seed bare spots with fescue or bluegrass.

Planting

Plant seeds like columbine, hollyhock, phlox, daisy, coreopsis, sweet William and new rose bushes.

Mid-March set out broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower.

Plant beets, carrots, Chinese cabbage, kale, lettuce, chard, turnips, potatoes and many herbs.

Start annual flowers and warm season vegetables inside your home early March.

Remove faded flowers from pansies and daffodils and do not braid, tie or rubber band foliage.

Watch for pests on plants. ID and remove or spray as needed.

Many summer bulbs can be planted in April.

Trees and Shrubs

Finish pruning fruit trees.

Prune flowering quince after blooming.

Prune roses late March.

Prune abelia, mahonia and nandina.

Plant fruit trees, fruiting plants and grapevines.

Transplant trees and shrubs.

New shrubs and ground covers can be planted.

Fertilize shrubs and shade trees.

Use organic pest control program for fruit trees.

Prune crossed, damaged, diseased or dead limbs. Keep a *natural form,* too much pruning can stress your plant. Always read the plant tag for sizes in width and height.

Prune butterfly bush, smooth hydrangea, panicle hydrangea, potentilla, roses and rose of sharon. Shear boxwoods and arborvitae.

Do not prune early bloomers like azalea, forsythia, lilac, quince, ninebark or Weigela.