

Getting ready for Spring

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Getting ready for Spring - Overview

- General activities
- Trees and shrubs
- Lawns
- Perennials, grasses
- Vegetable gardens – old and new
- Questions?

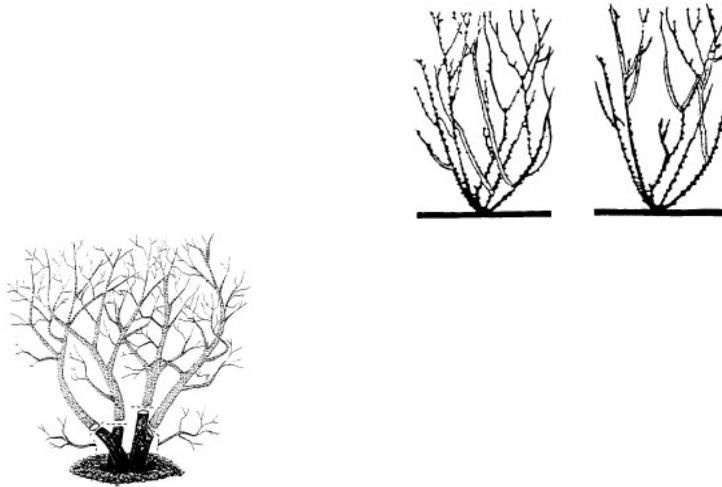
General activities

- Planning
- Soil test
- Clean and sharpen tools
- Order seeds, plants, other supplies

Trees and shrubs

- PRUNE
 - to improve health of plant, shape of plant, flowering, etc.
 - In general, best time to prune is during dormancy
 - Try to get large tree pruning done (by professionals) before the worst of winter – so Dec/Jan
 - Remove dead, diseased, damaged or double-crossed limbs (4 D's)
 - Prune summer flowering shrubs in late winter/early spring
 - (Prune spring flowering shrubs immediately after flowering)
 - Rejuvenation pruning – remove 1/3 oldest stems. Eg. Lilac, Forsythia
 - Renovation pruning – cut down to 6"-12" from ground. Eg. Abelia, Spirea, Lilac, Rose-of-Sharon.
- Apply dormant oil
- Plant bareroot when dormant.

Shrub pruning



Pruning - Hydrangea

- Bloom on old wood – eg. Big leaf, lacecap, Oak leaf. Prune after bloom. Rejuvenation pruning in early spring.
- Bloom on new wood – Panicle, smooth, new re-blooming. Prune in early spring.

Lawns (1)

- DON'T sign a contract for unnecessary pesticide/fertilizer applications
- DON'T fertilize early
 - Best time is in fall, or apply half strength organic fertilizer in May after first flush of growth
- DON'T remove clippings
- DON'T cut wet grass

Lawns (2)

- DO set sprinklers to water deeply and infrequently. Invest in a rain gauge.
- DO use corn gluten as a pre-emergent herbicide- when Forsythia blooms
- DO top dress with compost
- DO overseed, if you can't wait until fall.
- DO be patient, if you're transitioning to organic- takes 3 years!

Perennials (1)

- EARLY SPRING (Early March?)
 - remove mulch from crowns, evergreen bough mulch.
 - Reset frost-heaved perennials
- MID SPRING (late March/April)
 - Top-dress beds with compost or organic fertilizer
 - Aerate with pitchfork
 - Cut back plants left for winter, mow lirioppe, remove dead leaves from evergreens.



Perennials (2)

- LATE SPRING(April/May)
 - Divide/transplant.
 - Plant
 - Weed



Vegetables (1)

- Soil test – lime must be added at least 3 weeks before planting. pH meter.
- Plan your garden
 - Easy veggies: Peas, beans, radishes, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, summer squash like zucchini, lettuce, herbs
 - Crop rotation
 - Succession, companion, and relay planting
 - Grow vertical, tall to North
- Order seeds/plants

Vegetables - seeds

- Seeds
 - direct sow – peas, beans, lettuce,
 - start indoors or buy transplants
- Choosing seeds- organic, non-GMO, local, heirloom, hybrid or Open Pollinated(F1 vs.OP)
- How to read catalog entry

Sample seed listing

Seed Depth	Seed Spacing	Soil Temp for Germ	Days Germ
1/4"	See Below	70-90°F	6-14

Lycopersicon lycopersicum: The first ripe, juicy tomato of all gardeners. Each year we test and evaluate more than 250 top performing selections, for every desired use. An array of nutrient lycopene, found in its highest concentration in tomatoes, su fighting capacity, and more.

Quali T 23 Tomato

83 days. It's not often that a tomato comes along with this much appeal. Quali T 23 is a widely adapted, vigorous, determinate variety that out-yields many of the leading California cultivars. It consistently delivers huge, picture perfect, 5-6 inch, deep red fruit with unparalleled quality, uniformity, and flavor. Just right for BLTs all summer long! HR: F 0-2, L, N, TMV, ToMV, V. Also available as a plant.

Like 7 Tweet 0



F1 Hybrid Variety

Item	Qty	Size	Price	
TM922/S	<input type="text" value="1"/>	20 seeds	\$3.55	Add

CULTURE: Sow seeds indoors into sterile seedling mix 6-8" and cover with plastic or a Propagation Dome to keep the seeds emerged, up-pot into 3-4 inch pots and place in an area with prevent legginess. Water carefully, allowing the soil to dry or Fertilize with fish emulsion every 10-14 days. Seven to ten c in a sheltered area outdoors to harden off. Bring in or cover i passed, transplant into well worked garden soil. Blend 1/4 c If you have acid soils or have been bothered by blossom an determinate varieties 18-24 inches apart and indeterminate \ your plants have become leggy, plant them deeper, the stem allowing the stems to adapt. To promote early growth and be Waters, Kozzy Coats, Victorian Bell Cloches, or Red Plastic

DETERMINATE/INDETERMINATE: Determinate varieties a Determinate varieties ripen at once so are a good choice for vertically until the bitter end and need to be staked or trellised you some green tomatoes at the end of the season.

INSECT/PESTS: Use Pyrethrin or crop row covers to disc-most destructive. Tomato hornworms can be controlled with as Monterey B.t. (ZIN503).

DISEASES: Natural genetic plant resistance is the best for a strict 3 year rotation and a sanitation program that include best defenses. Contact your local county extension agent for

SEED SPECS: Minimum germination standard: 80% Usual date of transplanting: add 30-35 days if direct seeding.

KEY TO TOMATO DISEASE RESISTANCE AND TOLERANCE
 HR indicates high resistance.
 IR indicates intermediate resistance.
 AB | Early (Alternaria) Blight
 B | Bacterial Wilt
 F* | Fusarium Wilt
 FOR | Fusarium Crown and Root Rot
 L | Gray Leaf Spot
 LB | Late Blight
 LM | Leaf Mold
 N | Roundworm | Nematode
 PL | Corky Root Rot
 PST | Bacterial Speck
 RK | Root-Knot
 TMV | Tobacco Mosaic Virus
 ToMV* | Tomato Mosaic Virus
 TSWV | Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus
 TYLCV | Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus
 V | Verticillium Wilt
 * Numbers indicate specific disease race.

Vegetable seed - sources

- Some local sources*:
 - Hudson Valley Seed Library – seedlibrary.org
 - High Mowing Organic seeds – highmowingseeds.com
 - Johnnys Selected seeds – johnnyseeds.com
 - Fruition Seeds – fruitionseeds.com

* - No endorsement implied

New vegetable garden

- Container – great for starters, can be placed anywhere, many varieties, limited use.
- Raised beds – need extra soil and compost brought in. Can be expensive.
- Bed preparation – remove sod, rototill, add amendments
- Designing access –width/material of walkways, height of beds

Simple raised bed



Not so simple...



New vegetable garden (2)

- Irrigation
 - ☹ hand, sprinkler
 - ☺ drip, soaker
- Deer (and other critters) protection
- Vertical supports

Deer fence



Vertical Supports



Existing vegetable garden

- Prepare beds in fall. Add cover crop. If not, add compost, aerate and smooth as soon as soil workable



Vegetables – sample schedule

- Outdoors:
 - Mar – Peas
 - April – Carrots, beets, radishes, lettuce, chard
 - May – Beans, Tomatoes/peppers, more April crops
 - June – Squash after peas, eggplant after radishes
 - July/Aug – Kale after beans
- Indoors
 - Frost – 12 weeks – leeks, onions, celery
 - Frost – 8 weeks – eggplants, tomatoes, peppers
 - Frost- 4 weeks – brassicas, collards, etc.

Questions

- ?

Handouts

- Rutgers Fact Sheets
 - FS1221 – Pruning Flowering Shrubs
 - FS866 - Using horticultural oils
 - FS055 - Container gardening with vegetables
 - FS129 - Planning a vegetable garden
 - FS681 - Varieties for NJ home vegetable gardeners
 - FS626 – fertilizing the home vegetable garden