

Top Ten List – April

1. Water everything in the yard at least once or twice this month. Even if we get some April showers, your plants will need the additional water, since the plants are leafing out.
2. Aerate the lawn now and apply a topdressing, such as **Boost** or **Paydirt**, and for clay soils add **Gypsum**. **Master Green Lawn Fertilizer** or **EB Organics Natural Green Lawn Food** yield spectacular results.
3. Mulch around all your plants with **Bumper Crop Soil Conditioner** or **Protect** to retain moisture. Just a 3" layer can reduce water loss by 20%. Always water between 1am and 10am – never between noon and 11pm – to prevent lawn and plant fungus disease.
4. Fertilize the lawn, vegetables, trees, and shrubs. Greenhouse Garden Center carries many product options, both organic and synthetic!
5. When the flower buds are red, **Codling Moth Traps** may be hung and will serve as an indicator for codling moth activity. Spray your apple and pear trees with **Take Down**, **Eight**, or **Dr. Earth Final Stop** after your apple trees have dropped 80% of their blossoms, so you are not getting those pesty worms in your apples.
6. **Season Starters** need to go up. Plant tomatoes and peppers one week after the soil temperature has warmed up inside the walls of the Season Starter. They'll be the earliest and biggest in the neighborhood.
7. Spray **Florel** on plum, crabapple, pear, or any fruit that makes a mess on the patio or driveway, when they are in bloom, to prevent unwanted fruit. To be effective, spray one time a week for 3 weeks on the flowers.
8. **Bonide Tree and Shrub Insect Control** needs to be applied now to trees and shrubs for best results. Imidacloprid (the active ingredient) is an annual soil drench used systematically to prevent unwanted insects, including borers. It is now available in a formulation that is safe to use on all fruit trees. To protect pollinators (aka bees), wait until 80% of the blossoms have dropped on all flowering trees before applying this product.
9. Prune your junipers and arborvitae now so any "holes" will fill in during the summer. Never cut off all the green on the branches. When pruning roses, be sure to seal cuts larger than the width of a pencil with a pruning sealer to prevent cane borers. Use **3 in 1 Flower Care** on your roses to prevent aphids and cane borers.
10. Use **Pond Shade** when the temperature in your pond reaches an average temperature of 50 degrees F to prevent green water algae and blanket weed from forming. Feed the fish when they become active, 2-4 times a week.