



## Gardening Tips – April

Inspect all gardening equipment for the season – hoses, lawn mowers, weed eaters, clippers, etc. See “OGA Information Sheet – 4, Care of Garden Tools and Equipment” on our website, okgardeners.org.

Planting perennials and annuals can begin April 15, last average freeze date in central Oklahoma.

Fertilize flowerbeds before planting according to recommendations from soil sample, see “OGA Information Sheet – 1, To Start – Take a Soil Sample” on our website, okgardeners.org.

If no spring rains, begin watering perennials, newly planted trees, shrubs and annuals.

Water early morning to prevent fungal diseases. Water deep to promote good rooting system. Do not water daily. Water at base of plant to prevent diseases.

If the spring is wet, may see first signs of powdery mildew. Powdery mildew will usually resolve as the days heat up. Use chemicals only in severe cases.

Allow spring flowering bulb foliage to remain as long as possible to feed next year’s blooms.

If needed, begin mowing Bermuda lawns now. No need to scalp the lawn.

Aphids may be present on some perennials. Let predators, such as ladybugs, do their job at eliminating these pests. Best spray for aphids is a strong stream of water to knock aphids off of plants. Avoid using chemicals on aphids.

Remove any damaged/dead branches or plants that are not greening up by late April.

Continually weed flower and vegetable gardens, use mulch to reduce weed growth.

Begin planting seeds of warm-season vegetables – lima bean, green or wax bean, pole beans, cucumbers, okra, pumpkin, summer squash, sweet corn – mid to late April. Cantaloupe, cucumber, eggplant, pepper summer squash and tomato plants can also be planted mid to late April.

Get feeders ready for the arrival of hummingbirds in early April. Feed recipe: 1-part sugar to 4-parts water. Do not use red food coloring.

Get your sprinkler system serviced and check for leaks or other damage.

Start harvesting early spring vegetables.

Attend the Oklahoma Gardeners Association Spring Plant Sale, Saturday, April 27, 9:30 am – 1 pm, Urban Mission, 3737 N. Portland. Lots of good selections and new plants for 2019.