



Penny Lam

Building Clients for Life ...

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SPRING YOUR GARDEN TO LIFE

Ahh ... the sweet scent of spring flowers! Well, the only caveat is you will have to do a few things before you can truly savor the scent and beauty of spring. This edition of my newsletter will give you a few quick pointers to get you going.

In general, mid Spring season is the best time to start new, especially young, plants. Many young plants are vulnerable to extreme temperature, extreme cold or extreme hot. Mid Spring gives you just the ideal moderate temperature for these young plants to start its early lives. Starting now will also give the plants 2-3 months to grow enough to handle the peak summer heat.

SIMPLE STEPS TO GET YOUR GARDEN SPRING READY

1. Weed control: The best method for controlling weed during early spring is to pull the young weeds out of the ground instead of using *herbicide*. Why? Spring time is when many plants, including grass and flowers, are renewing their roots, and herbicide can interrupt this renewal process.

Pulling weed out by hand can be a back-breaking activity. Fortunately there are many weed pulling tools out there. Examples are the weed hound and weed twister (see images to the right). You can find weed hound at local hardware stores, and weed twister at "As Seen On TV".

2. Spring fertilizer for deep green grass and foliage: To give your shrubberies and grass extra deep green, early spring is a great time to add fertilizer with higher Nitrogen content, such as a 25-5-10 (the 1st number indicates the Nitrogen content). It is usually better to use slow release (e.g., pellet form) fertilizer instead of the soluble type; slow-release form does not cause fertilizer burn.

3. Brilliant Spring flowers and colors: This is the most exciting part. Spring time gives you the most abundant of flower and color varieties. Unfortunately most Spring jewels, such as tulips and daffodils must be planted late Autumn for Spring bloom. The good news is your local nurseries had covered the Autumn planting for you; you just need to spend a little more. Combine these beauties with other annuals in containers, pots, or even on the ground. Exert your creativity, experiment, and savor the resulting blooms and colors of your personal style.



QUICK REFERENCE

There are many online resources for Spring gardening or just gardening in general. The following are a few select sites:

Home & Garden TV (Cable TV focusing on Home and Garden): www.hgtv.com

Better Homes and Garden (the publisher of many Homes and Garden books):

www.bhg.com

Reference area for many other online gardening resources:
<http://gardening.about.com/od/springinthegarden/>

← Far Left: Weed Hound;
Left: Weed Twister