

Top Ten List – April

1. **Water** everything in the yard at least once or twice a week 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, Paydirt, Gypsum and Master Green Lawn fertilizer or EB Organics Natural Green Lawn Food for spectacular results.
3. **Mulch** around all your plants with Bumper Crop Soil Conditioner or Protect to retain moisture. Just a 3" layer can save 20-30 gallons of water a day on every large shrub or tree. 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. **Spray** your apple and pear trees with Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew or Bonide Fruit Tree Spray after your apple trees have dropped 80% of their blossoms, so you are not getting those pesky worms in your apples. Spray one time a week for 3 weeks. Codling Moth Traps may be rehung after that and will serve as an indicator for codling moth activity later in the season. Codling moths may go through 4-6 life cycles in 1 season.
6. **Wall O' Waters/Season Starter** need to go up. Plant tomatoes and peppers one week later, and after the soil temperature has warmed up inside the Wall O' Water. They'll be the earliest and biggest in the neighborhood.
7. **Spray** Florel on crabapple and hawthorne trees, 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 (including roses) for best results. Imidacloprid (the active ingredient) is an annual soil drench used systemically 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 can borers.

10. Use **Pond Shade** when the temperature in your pond reaches an average temperature of 50° to prevent green water algae and blanket weed from forming. Feed the fish when they become active, 2-4 times a week.