



Get Excited About Spring!!

Reason #1 - NO SNOW!!!

Reason #2 - Seeing all the bulbs sprouting up from the ground... always a welcome sign in my book!

Reason #3 - Being able to enjoy the outdoors for longer periods of time (sometimes Daylight Savings really stinks!).

Reason #4 - NO SNOW!!!

Reason #5 - Seeing and hearing the birds of spring - I find it quite amusing sometimes to watch Robins hop around in search of worms.

Reason #6 - The lawn actually starts looking green again!

Reason #7 - Did I forget anything...? Oh yeah, NO SNOW!!!

But seriously, after this long and snow-filled winter, who can't get excited about spring? Some people are just chomping at the bit to start tilling their gardens and plant their seedlings. I, on the other hand, let that task to my husband (who loves to tinker in the garden). I just like to see how things change as the spring season approaches. The bulbs start to emerge at the first hint of a warm day, buds are forming on once-barren branches of trees and shrubs, the birds seem to increase in number around the bird feeder, and the new season's seed packets hit the garden center shelves. Aahhh, I can just smell the spring air!

Why am I "teasing" you with all of this talk of spring when there is 2-3' of snow outside? Just because there is snow on the ground, doesn't mean you can't get yourself prepared for spring now. If you haven't already started your spring plan, now's the time to start! Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Plan some new garden beds. You can doodle on a napkin or get out the graph paper and protractor, all that matters is that you have the ideas down on paper (of some sort). Cut pictures out of magazines; research some new plants that you'd like to add to your landscape; look for some garden art or accessories - the possibilities are endless!



- Prepare a pruning list. What needs pruning and when can you prune it? Remember that some plants need to be pruned at certain times – forsythia, for example, should be pruned after flowering. If you’re not sure about pruning times or even how to prune certain plants – visit your local garden center or email us at askthegteam@pennsylvaniapride.com – we’re always available!
- Have any fruit trees or shrubs? Set up your yearly fruit tree/shrub care schedule – when should you prune your Apple tree? When should you prune your Raspberries? Does anything need to be sprayed?
- Is there anything in the garden that you’d like to move to another location or that needs dividing? Maybe you have something planted that you just don’t like and you’d like to replace it with something new?
- Check your garden shed (if you can make your way through the snow). Reorganize it if needed: clean out any pots that housed annuals or veggies last year and make sure that all your gardening tools are clean and/or sharpened and ready for the spring season.
- Get ready for starting seeds. Order seeds from catalogs, buy packets from the garden center, just do whatever you do and make sure you have everything you need.
- For those of you who compete with your neighbors for the nicest lawn in the neighborhood – plan your lawn care regimen. Do you need any fertilizer? Green spray paint? (just kidding) Problems with grubs? (Those things are truly gross; did you ever look at one up close? Ewww!) And make sure your lawnmower blades are sharpened!

Your spring planning list will of course vary depending on what your personal preferences are and depending on what type of gardener you are or what type of garden you have. These are just a few suggestions to get your brain out of the winter fog and into the “spring” mind frame. This is also a way to show that silly groundhog that you can use those “six more weeks of winter” to plan your best spring garden ever!

Happy Planning!



- Heather Neuin
Pennsylvania Pride Grow Team