

The Latest Dirt

La Porte County Master Gardener Newsletter



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2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on
Thursday at the La Porte Main Library
Meeting Room B, unless otherwise noted

| | |
|-------------|--|
| April 3 | Awards Dinner Home Beekeeping Peter Boesen |
| May 1 | Business Meeting |
| June 5 | Social Meeting |
| July 3 | Business Meeting |
| August 7 | Annual Picnic |
| September 4 | Business Meeting |
| October 2 | Social Meeting |
| November 6 | Business Meeting Elections |
| December 4 | Holiday Dinner Party |

NEXT BOARD MEETING

April 14th - 6:00 p.m.
Room A at the Main La Porte Library

"THE LATEST DIRT" is published monthly.
The next deadline is April 20, 2025

www.lpmastergardener.org

<https://www.facebook.com/MasterGardeners-LaPorteCounty>



PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

What is an Inch of Water?

By: Karen Mitchell, mitcheka@purdue.edu

The unpredictable Midwest weather has gardeners checking their rain gauge daily, because one rule gardeners learn early on is that landscapes need about an inch of water each week. Of course, there are many factors that will impact the accuracy of this very general rule such as soil type, average temperature, sun exposure, plant type, and wind. The crud method to determine whether you need to water would be poking your finger in the soil and if it feels dry, you water. But what is an inch of water really?

To determine this, we have to go back to the basics of geometry to measure area and volume. However, a few measurements will always remain the same.

One square foot = 144 square inches
One gallon = 231 cubic inches

Therefore, an "inch of water" is 0.62 gallons per square foot of garden area. Unless you use a gallon jug to water a square foot garden, this number may still leave you wondering how to obtain that inch of water or 0.62 gallons per square foot. Of course, this will vary depending on the type of irrigation used, but the total amount of water needed for an area will remain constant. First, determine the garden area in square feet and then multiply the total area by 0.62 gallons.

Example 1: The garden is 10 feet wide and 20 feet long, so
 $20 \text{ ft} \times 10 \text{ ft} = 200 \text{ square feet}$.
Then, $200 \text{ ft}^2 \times 0.62 \text{ gallons} = 124 \text{ gallons}$
needed for a 200 ft² garden area.

There are a few ways to measure irrigation water, and some will include acronyms like ac.in, psi, or GPM. Before trying to convert an acre-inch (ac.in) or determining pounds per square inch (psi), grab a one-gallon bucket and a stopwatch. Time how long it takes to fill the bucket using your preferred spray nozzle. Then, divide 60 by the number of seconds that it took to fill the one gallon bucket. This equals the gallons per minute (GPM).

Example 2: The one-gallon bucket fills in 20 seconds, so $60 \div 20 = 3$ gallons per minute. Next, to determine how long to water using this spray nozzle, divide the total amount of water needed for the whole garden area (from Example 1) by the gallons per minute calculated (from Example 2).

Example 3: $124 \text{ gallons needed} \div 3 \text{ gallons per minute} = 41.3$ minutes of watering.

In the above scenario, the garden area would need to be watered for approximately 40 to 45 minutes each week. Ideally, this would be broken into two watering sessions per week, so about 20 minutes every few days. If watering with a spray nozzle for that length of time isn't possible, gardeners may decide to switch to a sprinkler or a soaker hose. This will require a new calculation and a few tuna cans.

When irrigation with a sprinkler is necessary, it is important to measure the water output to avoid over or under-watering areas. This is another simple measurement using a few tuna cans, a ruler, and a stopwatch. Tuna cans are convenient, but any short container with a wide mouth and straight sides can be used. Place the empty containers randomly throughout the area that is being irrigated and turn the sprinkler on for 10 minutes (Fig. 1). Using the ruler, measure how much water is in each container and calculate the average.



Figure 1

Example: Three cans were placed in the garden and collected the following amounts of water in 10 minutes: 0.5", 0.75", and 0.75". The average is the sum divided by the number of cans. So, $(0.5 + 0.75 + 0.75) \div 3 = 0.67$ inches of water every 10 minutes.

Once these calculations are complete, you can confidently water your garden with approximately an inch of water each week. Keep in mind that numerous other factors can impact whether you need more or less water, so watch the thermometer and wind speeds. High temperatures and high winds can dry out soils very quickly, even a well-watered garden.

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Article submitted by: Tom Boesen

ASSOCIATION NEWS

I'm writing this note on March 14th, and it is almost eighty degrees outside and like most of you, I have Spring fever big time!

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the March business meeting. I loved hearing attendees describe their desired gardening superpower. Many of us said we'd love to be able to have no weeds, to win the Power Ball lottery (imagine the plants you could buy with those winnings!), to figure out how to get rid of moles, to have plants that all do well and to have amazing prairie grasses. Ah, we can dream, can't we?

We're excited about our gardening hotline starting on April 7th. Back in December I read many of the comments that you've made in the last few years, and many expressed a desire to help the public more. This hotline is a way to do that so I hope that you will do the following two things: First, volunteer to take the calls and second, let your friends and family know that we have a hotline and that we are ready to help them with their gardening questions. The hotline number is 219-324-9407.

By the time you read this we will have launched our work with Paladin La Porte County Head Start, Niemann Elementary School. We will be working with three-five-year-old children, teaching them the basics of planting seeds and watching them grow. I've been at school a few times now and the children are just the sweetest little things. We are so honored to do this work.

The Spring Garden Show is finally here, and we will see the culmination of everyone's hard work. I've been so impressed with all that everyone has done. Thanks so much to Carol Nolan for leading the committee. I'd also like to thank everyone who has shared their many years of experience with those of us who are new at this work. The show wouldn't happen without your hard work and please know you're so appreciated. This show is yet another way that we show up for the community to further our purpose.

We're looking forward to our annual awards dinner on April 3rd. I hope that you can attend; it's a great opportunity to come together and enjoy each other's company.

I want you all to know that I really didn't know what to expect as I became more involved with the LPCMGA but I'm just so happy to be making new friends, to be learning so much from you and for having the opportunity to make a difference. You're all so talented and it's an honor to work alongside you.

If you haven't been able to attend our meetings, I really hope you'll consider doing so soon.

La Porte County Master Gardener Association General Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2025

The March 10th, 2025 General Business Meeting was called to order: 6:02 p.m. 22 Members in Attendance

Vicki Znavor shared that during the February Social Meeting, Melinda Bush visited, at the request of members, to talk about her work with the Paladin La Porte County Head Start, Niemann Elementary School in Michigan City. A member made a motion to approve. It was properly seconded, discussed and approved to work with the school on a gardening project. Because this business item occurred at the social meeting, the minutes reflecting this item alone from the February meeting were presented and approved.

Carol Nolan reported the Garden Show plan is in good shape. There will be a Fairy Garden, Kids' Nature Corner, 40 vendors and 3 speakers. The final planning meeting will take place on March 12th. Carol, Marcy, and Vicki will appear on WIMS Radio to talk about the garden show. Volunteers are needed on March 20th to assemble the raffle and auction baskets. If anyone who volunteered to work at the garden show has not heard from Kathleen Fox, please contact her directly for details of your assignment.

Susie Kieffer presented the Treasurer's Report. Included in the report was the expense for Red Mill Park for both the April and August meetings. The motion to approve was made, properly seconded, and approved.

Vicki Znavor presented an overview of projects. The hotline will be open on Mondays and Fridays starting on April 7th and ending on September 26th. There are volunteer opportunities available. Please sign up on MG Manager. If you need help signing up, please contact Jesi at the Extension Office.

The Awards' Dinner Invitations will be sent to members. A sign-in sheet was available at the meeting as well. If you have not yet RSVP'd, please do so and advise what dish you will bring.

The Golden Trowel Award will be made at the August picnic rather than at the April awards dinner. The rationale for this is that the board felt

that selection criteria should be determined and that members should be given enough time to contemplate their nominations. The criteria and proposed timeline shared at the meeting are the following: Support of the LPCMGA Purpose, Leadership (e.g., spearheading a cause, leading by example), and Impact (financial, volunteer and/or knowledge-sharing). Volunteer and education hours, while important, won't count. In addition, the Golden Trowel cannot be awarded to the same person in any two consecutive years. It was agreed that a ballot that includes a description of each of the criteria will be provided to members in May (at the May meeting and via email) and voting will occur in July. The motion to approve the proposed Golden Trowel Award parameters was made, properly seconded, and approved.

Tom Boesen gave an update on the Head Start project. He reported that the volunteers will work with the children on March 19th to plant seeds.

Vicki Znavor shared the process for project approval is covered in our Association By-Laws. Robert's Rules of Order will provide guidance in situations that aren't covered in our by-laws.

It's important to share information about what the LPCMGA does. Please follow and share our **Facebook page**.

Donna Pouzar talked about how to contribute to the newsletter. Members are encouraged to share educational articles, photos of interesting sites, something that's been learned or even articles about mistakes that we've made that will help others. Send articles to Donna by the 20th of each month.

Geri Lamb reported on the [LPCMGA website](#).

Guidelines on submitting information for the website will be sent to members via email.

Karen Sarver shared that speakers are needed for the following events: Natives in June 28, Birds on May 13. If you're interested, please contact Karen directly.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Remembering our First Garden Show

By: Ann Klosinski

Lots of posts of past Garden Shows are showing up in my Facebook memories. Here is the schedule for the first show. Ambitious!

| Schedule of Seminars and Demonstrations | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| Time | P107 Art Room | P105 Art Room | Auditorium | P119 Tiered Classroom | Media Center (Library) | Cafeteria |
| 8:00 AM-4:00 PM | Vendors Open All Day | Vendors Open All Day | Vendors Open All Day | Vendors Open All Day | Vendors Open All Day | Vendors Open All Day |
| 9:30 AM-10:20 AM | Nicole Messacar Children's Workshop "Vermicomposting" | | Dawn Pape "Goodbye Ornamentals, Hello Functional Yards" Book Signing to Follow | | | |
| 10:30 AM-11:20 AM | | Kitty Knoll Children's Workshop "Native Prairies" | Steve Sass "The Important Role of Native Plants in the Home Landscape" | Jan Koss "Raising Monarch Butterflies" | Mitch Yaciw Unity Gardens "So You Want to Become a Beekeeper" | Marcy Dailey "Cultivating a Love of Herbs" |
| 11:30 AM - 12:20 PM | Nicole Messacar Children's Workshop | | Victoria Jostes "Wetlands: The Ordinary & the Extraordinary" | Walt Binder "Bonsai: An Introduction for Beginners and Enthusiasts" | Dan DeCaro "A Common Sense Approach to Growing Cactus & Succulents" | Brad Hindsley Spire Farm to Fork Cooking Demo - "Cooking with Fresh Herbs" |
| 12:30 PM-1:20 PM | | | Dawn Pape "Mason Meets a Mason Bee" & "Planting For Native Pollinators" | | | |
| 1:30 PM-2:20 PM | Jen Kuzdas Children's Workshop "Fairy Gardens for Kids" | Linda Strain Children's Workshop "Backyard Arachnology" (Spiders) | Victoria Jostes "To Bee or Not To Bee" | Jan Koss "Raising Monarch Butterflies" | George Brenn Four Seasons Nursery "Pruning 101" | Marcy Dailey "Cultivating a Love of Herbs" |
| 2:30 PM-3:20 PM | | Linda Strain Children's Workshop "Backyard Arachnology" (Spiders) | Steve Sass "Taking the Plunge: Transforming to a Wildlife Friendly Landscape with Native Plants" | Dan Kluko Green Spirit Farms "Vertical Gardening" | Steve Carson "Backyard Poultry" | Brad Hindsley Spire Farm to Fork Cooking Demo - "Cooking with Fresh Herbs" |

We had great expectations, Pam Coker felt we would have 700 attendees and that's how many booklets we ordered. Reality was there were 300. The presentations that were held in the auditorium were embarrassing, there were so few people in that big space. I was so disappointed I went home and cried; it was so much work!

But we didn't give up and the shows got better each year, if not in numbers of attendees, but in satisfaction. The feedback is complimentary of how well organized we are and how friendly the Master Gardeners are.

2025 La Porte Builders' Association Home Expo Update

By: Donna Pouzar

Many thanks to Janet Davis, Linda Hough, Lisa Johnson, Susie Kieffer, Ann Klosinski, Carol Nolan, George and Karen Sarver, Kathy Staninger and Steve Zolvinski who volunteered to work at this year's La Porte Builders' Association Home and Lifestyle Expo Show on March 1st and 2nd.

The 'tally sheets' showed we had a good turnout at our booth. Members spoke with over 119 people and 3 people signed up for information on the Master Gardener Program. Flyers on our 2025 Garden Show were handed out as well as a variety of seed packets.



LPCMGA *Annual Awards Celebration & Dinner*

*Special presentation on
Home Beekeeping
by Peter Boesen*

Blessing offered by Mike Altman

*April 3, 2025 at 5:30PM
Smith Hall, Red Mill Park
0185 S. Holmsville Rd.
LaPorte, IN*

Please note the correct date of the awards dinner is **Thursday April 3rd**.
The date on the card recently mailed to you indicated April 4th.

Getting To Know Our Members

Janet Davis

Tell us something about yourself:

I am a retired Information Technology Executive and have lived in Michigan City for the last 6 years. Lake Michigan and the Dunes drew me here, along with all the fresh fruit orchards and fresh produce farm stands.

How long have you been a member of the LPCMGA?

I have been a member a little over a year but was not able to participate until the Fall of 2024 as I was living in Bloomington, IN caring for my (adorable) granddaughter. I am about as close to a being a 'newbie' as there is.

What inspired you to join?

The itch to share my love of gardening with others and continuing to learn from all the experience around me in the Association.

When did you start gardening and what's a favorite garden memory or experience you can share?

I started gardening when I was in high school. My afterschool job was at a local florist shop that had a little greenhouse in the back. I would bring home flowers and plants that were to be discarded and plant them all around my parents' yard. Not gardeners themselves, they felt this was a 'phase' I would grow out of (Ha Ha). That did not happen!

Attending garden walks across Cook, Porter, and Lake counties have been some of my favorite garden experiences. It is so enjoyable to witness the creativity and hard work that homeowners have put into their own spaces.

What have you learned from gardening that can be applied in all areas of life?

Failures are learning experiences and successes are to be celebrated.



Do you have a favorite local garden that you enjoy visiting?

Friendship gardens any chance I get. When I was still working, I would spend my lunch hour there.

Do you have a favorite local garden that you enjoy visiting?

Not really

What advice would you have for a new gardener?

Start with a manageable project. A 'first win' will motivate you to go bigger and better

Ann Klosinski

Tell us something about yourself:

I'm a native of Michigan City and have always lived in La Porte County. This is my home, and I love it here! I was a Real Estate agent from 1985-1991. After that I worked for 20 years in a customer service/inside sales position in a manufacturing business. I retired in 2008 and became a happy homemaker.

Russ and I have a "blended family" of 6 kids who were all teenagers when we got married 33 years ago, and we survived! My interests include traveling with my husband, family and friends. Whenever they have time in their busy lives, we enjoy spending time with our children and 13 grandchildren.

Besides being involved with Master Gardeners, I volunteer at St. Mary's Resale Shop. Hobbies and things I enjoy are gardening (pretty much limited to container gardening and some yard maintenance), crocheting, cooking/baking, homemaking in general and watching movies in the evening.



How long have you been a member of the LPCMGA?

I took the class in 2006 and joined in 2007. At that time the classes were held at the Farm Bureau office in La Porte. The Extension office was in the plaza on Hwy 35 by Johnson Road where we held our meetings until the current office was built. There are only 3 of us from that class who are still Master Gardeners.

As is typical, the newcomers to the Association are recruited for the Board. I Served as Secretary from 2008-2009 and went on to serve in multiple capacities over the years. I achieved Gold level status in 2019. When I was President in 2016, Gene Matzat approached me about reviving the symposiums. Another of our Master Gardeners, Pam Coker and I put our heads together and decided to organize a Garden Show instead. I committed to chairing the show for five years. Unfortunately, the fifth show in 2020 was cancelled just days before happening due to Covid and it still was not safe to have one in 2021. I'm still involved in the show but in a more limited capacity.

What inspired you to join?

I was not involved with any other group at the time. My husband and I thought about taking the class for a while, so when it was offered in the evening, we decided to take it. The property we built our home on needed attention, amending the soil for a new lawn, planting shrubs, trees, flowers etc. The knowledge we could gain by taking the class and joining the Association would help us make good decisions, though we did make mistakes.

When did you start gardening and what's a favorite garden memory or experience you can share?

My exposure to gardening started at a young age. My dad had a green thumb, so I learned from example. We had chores helping to take care of the gardens and enjoyed picking and eating the fresh veggies and fruits. He would teach us the names of different trees and plants as we took walks in the woods surrounding their three acres.

The most frustrating gardening experience was finding a volunteer cherry tomato plant secretly growing under a large shrub. It had huge fruit but the tomatoes in the pots on the deck that I paid so much attention to were few and miniscule. I gave up! We tried to establish a garden in the yard, but the deer and rabbits would eat everything including stripping the foliage off a row of Arborvitae. After taking a tree steward class, we came home and found we made mistakes planting our trees, so gardening is a constant learning process. The misconception is that a Master Gardener knows all the answers....WRONG!

What have you learned from gardening that can be applied in all areas of life?

Gardening is work, but has its rewards. Like life, anything worth having is worth working for. The valuable things in life require effort, dedication and perseverance to achieve.

Do you have a favorite local garden that you enjoy visiting?

Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Buchart Gardens in Canada is heavenly! The rose garden in Rome is another treasure. None of these are local, but are my favorites.

What advice would you have for a new gardener?

Take advantage of the energy of youth and spend more time working in your garden and enjoying it. I wish I had taken my own advice because there is so much that I could have done when I still had the ability.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

**P PURDUE**
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Extension - Elkhart County

TREE FRUIT SUCCESS FOR HOME & SMALL FARM

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH
6:30PM****KERCHER'S SUNRISE ORCHARDS**
19498 CR 38, GOSHEN, IN 46526**DETAILS OF TREE FRUIT MANAGEMENT FROM
ROOT STOCK TO PRUNING****DR. PETER HIRST**
PURDUE TREE FRUIT EXTENSION SPECIALIST**DISEASE MANAGEMENT IN TREE FRUITS****DR. MELANIE IVEY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**
FRUIT PATHOLOGY
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**TO REGISTER, CALL 574-533-0554**
OR EMAIL MEVANS@PURDUE.EDU
Private Applicator Credits Available

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Friendship Botanic Gardens is sponsoring four Garden-related workshop sessions in May and June. Below is the schedule. An * indicates the sessions we'd love to have Master Gardeners on hand to answer general gardening questions from attendees as well as visitors to The Gardens.

These sessions are open to the public and Master Gardeners are welcome to attend for education hours.

Pruning - April 19 10:30 a.m. - Noon
Janice Casper and Joyce Thomason
\$40.00

Right Plant in the Right Place and Deer Resistant Gardens* - May 3 - 10:30 a.m.
Janice Casper, Rima Binder and Donna Pouzar
Master Gardeners Q & A Table
\$10.00

Making your own Hypertufa* May 10 - 10:30 a.m.
Janice Casper and Val Askew
Need volunteers with experience making Hypertuffas
Master Gardeners Q&A Table
\$25.00

Soil Knowledge and Plant Propagation *
Time and Speaker TBD
Master Gardeners Q & A and to hand out Soil Test Packets
\$\$ TBD

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the above sessions, please contact Donna Pouzar.

Thank you.



2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD

| | |
|---|---|
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PAST PRESIDENT CAROL NOLAN

*INDICATES MEMBER IS FILLING ANOTHER PERSON'S TERM, OR EXTENDED THEIR TERM WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD

2025 PROJECT COORDINATORS

Friendship Botanic Gardens

Rima Binder _____ 219-878-8128
_____ rimabinder@comcast.net

Garden Hotline

Extension Office _____ 219-324-9407

Garden Show

Theresa Dzoba-Borg _____ 773-960-5848
_____ dzozo@yahoo.com

Ann Klosinski _____ 219-872-8367
_____ annak47@comcast.net

Carol Nolan _____ 331-903-0091
_____ cnolan41@yahoo.com

Karen Sarver _____ 219-921-9704
_____ ksarver@csinet.net

La Porte Builders Assn. Home Expo

Donna Pouzar _____ 219-363-2960
_____ pouzdlp@icloud.com

Pioneer Land School Tours

Linda Hough _____ 219-324-0424
_____ ljhough614@gmail.com

Pioneer Heritage Garden

Connie Shei _____ 219-362-4866
_____ jshei@comcast.net

Sunflower Fair

Linda Hough _____ 219-324-0424
_____ ljhough614@gmail.com

EXTENSION NEWS

JESI'S CORNER

Happy 1st Week of Spring! While we may have experienced a cold and biting start, spring truly represents a season of renewal. There's no better way to embrace it than by nurturing your garden. With some thoughtful planning, dedicated effort, and plenty of patience, you'll be rewarded with a vibrant garden that offers beauty, nourishment, and joy.

Remember, gardening isn't solely about the final outcome; it's also about the journey itself! Take the time to relish the process, get your hands in the soil, and celebrate the small victories along the way. Whether you're cultivating a stunning flower bed or harvesting your first batch of homegrown tomatoes, gardening provides a unique sense of accomplishment and tranquility that is unmatched. I wish you all a wonderful and successful Garden Show ahead. Many of you have invested so much effort into the finer details, and I'm confident it will be fantastic!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Ephemerals for sale

By: Donna Pouzar

I will be potting up Virginia Bluebells, Bloodroot, Iris cristata; native bleeding hearts – Dicentra eximia; Hakonechloa commonly called "Japanese Weeping grass," and some Hellebores. If you are interested in buying any of these plants, feel free to give me a call. I just want them to have a good home. Thanks much.



Virginia Bluebells



Bloodroot



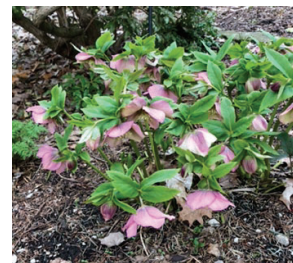
Iris cristata



Dicentra 'eximia'



Hakonechloa



Helleborus

STANDING COMMITTEE COORDINATOR
 History Book _____ Donna Pouzar
 Hospitality _____ Eunice Conway
 Librarian _____ Linda Hough
 Newsletter _____ Donna Pouzar
 Speakers Bureau _ See Executive Board

Purdue Extension Office __ 324-9407

Jesi Davenport _ jfurness@purdue.edu
 Sue Salisbury _ salisbk@purdue.edu

The Latest Dirt is published monthly. The deadline for submission is the 20th of each month. Our mission is to publish articles about events of interest to other Master Gardeners and the community. Articles about personal experiences, suggestions on gardening books, catalogs, helpful websites, tips and tricks, book reviews, seminars you've attended are welcomed.

Submission requirements: Articles should be no longer than a page and can include photos. References must be included. Latin names of plants should be italicized. We do not accept articles pertaining to medicinal information. Master Gardeners will get volunteer hours for time spent working on an article.

Buy, Sell, Trade at the Trading Shed

Place your free ad in "The Latest Dirt"

Tools, tillers, mowers, plants - anything garden related. Keep ads brief. Provide your phone number and/or e-mail address. Ads will be limited to space available.

Information must be submitted by the 20th of the month to:

pouzdlp@icloud.com

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APRIL GARDEN CALENDAR

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Start seeds of warm-season plants (including tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, marigolds, zinnias, and petunias) indoors for transplanting later to the garden.
- Harden off transplants started earlier in spring before planting outdoors. Gradually expose the young plants to outdoor conditions of wind, brighter sunlight, and lower moisture.
- Apply fertilizer to houseplants according to label directions as days grow brighter and longer and new growth begins. Foliage plants require relatively high-nitrogen fertilizer, while blooming plants thrive on formulations that are higher in phosphorus.
- Keep Easter lily in a bright, cool location, out of direct sunlight. Water as soil begins to dry. You can remove the yellow, pollen-bearing anthers inside the flower by pinching to prevent staining the petals.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- Plant seeds of cool season crops directly in the garden as soon as the soil dries enough to be worked. When squeezed, soil should crumble instead of forming a ball. Cool-season crops that can be direct-seeded include peas, lettuce, spinach, carrots, beets, turnips, parsnips and Swiss chard.
- Plant transplants of cool-season crops, such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi and onions.
- Plant or transplant asparagus and rhubarb crowns. For best plant establishment, do not harvest until the third year after planting.
- Plant sections of certified, disease-free potato "seed" tubers.
- Allow the foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to remain in place after blooms fade. Leaves manufacture the food reserves, which are then stored in the bulb for a repeat showing next year.
- Plant hardy perennials, such as daylilies and delphiniums.

- Start tuberous begonias and caladiums indoors for transplanting to garden later.
- Remove winter mulch from strawberries, but keep mulch handy in case late frosts are predicted and to help keep weeds under control.
- Plant or transplant strawberries, raspberries, and other small fruit.
- Prune grape vines to remove dead or weakened limbs and to thin as needed.
- Repair support trellises as needed.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)

- Plant a tree in celebration of Arbor Day, April 24. You should plant bare-root stock before new top growth begins. You can plant balled and burlapped and containerized stock later in spring.
- Complete pruning chores. Remove dead and injured branches first.
- Apply a prebloom, multipurpose orchard spray to fruit trees.
- Remove winter coverings from roses, but keep mulch nearby to protect them from late freezes. Prune and fertilize as needed.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide to control crabgrass in lawns. Approximate application dates are late March to mid-April in southern Indiana and mid-April to early May in northern Indiana. Exact timing varies each year with weather conditions. For more precise application timing based on Growing Degree Days (GDD), visit Michigan State University's [GDD Tracker](#). Enter your ZIP code and select "Crabgrass Pre." The target [GDD Tracker](#) window for crabgrass prevention is 250-500.

