

Gardening in Asotin County

April – May - June

Keep those weed numbers low. Weeding now will save you a lot of work later. Do not use weed and feed products near trees or shrubs.

Plant roses in a well drained area with the graft two inches below the soil. They need to have at least 6 hours of sunlight per day.

April is a good time to seed marigolds, zinnias and cosmos indoors if you did not do it in **March**. Nasturtiums and sweet-peas can be sown directly into the soil.

Finish pruning chores on all but the spring shrubs and trees.

Fertilize spring-blooming shrubs after flowering is complete.



Set out pots for container gardening. Make sure all containers have drainage holes in the bottom of the pot. Buy a soil mixture or make your own with perlite, sand and sterilized garden soil. Plant flowers and keep them well watered. Fertilize every week with a weak fertilizer solution according to label directions.

Continue planting leafy greens, beets and carrots in small amounts for a staggered harvest. Thin vegetables as they emerge to avoid crowded plants.

Start pumpkins and melons indoors in **May** to transplant the first of **June**. Replant any seeds that have not sprouted from **April** planting.

You can still aerate an existing lawn. You can also over-seed an old lawn or plant a new one. Mow lawn regularly to a height of 2 to 2 ½ inches. Recycle your grass clippings back into your lawn whenever possible. It is best not to remove more than one-third of the grass blades. Keep mower blades sharp. Lawns need about one inch of water per week. To avoid shallow roots and their inherent problems, water deeply once or twice a week unless you have very sandy soil. Water very sandy soil more frequently but with less water.

To keep chrysanthemums compact, pinch back stems through the **4th of July**. Pinching will increase bushiness and flowering later in the season.

After rhododendrons have blossomed, fertilize with a fertilizer formulated for rhododendrons.

Plant potatoes in **April**. Plant starts of basil, tomatoes, eggplant and peppers into the garden in **June**.

Also in **June**, sow seeds of beans, corn, melons, squash, pumpkins and cucumbers.

Cutworms, root maggots, cabbageworms, aphids, Colorado potato beetles and weevils show up in your garden in **June**. Find and remove them before they take over.