

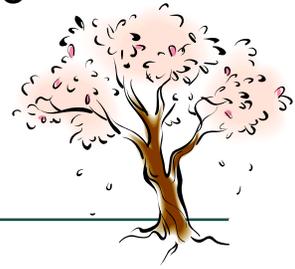
# THE EL DORADO NURSERY AND GARDEN NEWSLETTER

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## April/May/June 2022



### GARDEN CALENDAR



#### What to do in April

- April 15<sup>th</sup> is the estimated last frost date for the Placerville area; El Dorado Hills estimated date is April 1<sup>st</sup>; and Pollock Pines is May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you set out tomatoes use the Season Starter(wall o water, available at the nursery).
- Plant or divide perennials.
- Sow annual flowers and warm season vegetables outdoors after the last frost.
- Sow seeds of cold hardy perennials such as Veronica, Columbine, & Coral bells after the last frost. Spray for oak worms. See us for spray options.
- Set out traps for earwigs and snails. Traps can be homemade or bought. See us for products and ideas. Fertilize spring blooming shrubs, ground covers, and conifers.

#### What to do in May



- Plant warm season vegetable seeds or starts.
- Prune spring blooming shrubs immediately after bloom.
- Check roses for aphids! Hose off plants and feed roses with systemic fertilizer if needed.
- Start new lawn from seed or sod.
- Thin fruit set on fruit trees (leave 6" between the ones you want to ripen). Prune for size control as needed.
- Mow lawns, removing less than 1/3rd the height.
- Plant summer annual flowers and perennials.
- Fertilize container plants with time-release fertilizer.
- Thin over-abundant seedlings in vegetable beds.
- Check and repair irrigation systems.
- - **May 8<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day** – Get your mom or someone special a spring blooming plant that she can enjoy year after year, or give her a gift card to pick one out herself.

#### What to do in June

- Rebuild watering basins around trees and shrubs for deep watering.
- Protect ripening fruit with bird netting or scare tactics such as reflective tape, plastic owls, old CDs, plastic snakes, old neck ties, or wind chimes. Put up just as fruit ripens so the birds don't become too familiar with the devices.
- Remove spent flowers on annuals for re-bloom.
- Feed azaleas, camellias, gardenias, & rhododendrons with azalea food. Try out our Gardener and Bloome organic fertilizer.
- Feed lawns with organic lawn fertilizer.
- Feed perennials and shrubs that have extensive bloom times with Maxsea 16-16-16 or all purpose Gardener and Bloome.
- Plant a batch of herbs near the kitchen door for easy access to instant flavor.
- Prune spring blooming shrubs after flowering, like lilacs.
- Annual checkup on mowers and trimmers. Dull or dirty blades spread disease and cause stress.
- Trim hedges so that the base is wider than the top by pruning down the sides.
- Use Tangle Foot or Terro Ant Traps on fruit trees to prevent crawling insects from damaging fruit.
- Plant summer vegetable seeds or starts.

- Whitewash fruit tree trunks to prevent sunburn. Use a light colored interior latex paint mixed with 50% water. Paint up to 40" or the first set of branches.

More like this: [Full year in the garden](#)

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## **GARDEN TIP OF THE MONTH**

### **Insects on your crops**

Watch for insects feeding on your veggies. Be sure to check tomatoes for hornworms and stink bugs. Also look for squash bugs on squash and pumpkins. For more on controlling pests in your vegetable garden visit: [Summer Vegetable Problems](#).

### **Around the Nursery:**



### **Petunia Starlet**



### **The Gang**

# Veggie Tips

Tactics for tastier, more productive vegetables.

**Beans:** Avoid direct overhead watering as it can damage the flowers on a plant, thereby slowing its production.

**Cucumbers & Squash:** Pick while young for best flavor. Lack of fruit set is generally due to lack of bees or improper watering. You can hand pollinate or buy Mason Bee boxes. Cucumbers need consistent watering to produce ample harvest of non-bitter fruit. Fertilize with a balanced fertilizer at planting time. Harvest early in the morning and rotate yearly to a new spot.

**Peas:** For best flavor, pick as near to serving time as possible. Cook immediately.

**Peppers:** For hotter peppers, stop watering a day or two before harvest. Pick when the soil is dry.

**Zucchini:** Did your zucchini rot away from the bottom last year? It was probably due to lack of pollinating. See the cucumber section above for solutions.

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## Euphorbia Appreciation

When I think about it, my attraction to euphorbias makes sense in a few ways. I'm attracted to their eclectic, unusual look. Their outer space 'flowers' (often chartreuse) are set against narrow, whorled, always interesting, foliage. I'm excited by their diversity. At any given time there are lots of different varieties around the nursery trade and they come in quite a range of sizes and colors; it makes the hunt for new plants particularly satisfying. Finally, and perhaps best of all for gardeners, euphorbias are really easy to grow, tolerating wide ranges of light and water added benefit of being extremely deer- and gopher-resistant!

Euphorbias (You-for-be-ahs) have a heck of a name genus has been much maligned over the years; a few plants can be invasive, and all euphorbias have a milky irritating on contact or even toxic if ingested (degree toxicity varies depending on species; area are fine). Hey, that's why they're



to get around. The of its species of sap that may be of irritation or most species for our so deer resistant!



Some species can reseed, but not enough to become a pest. In any case, these guys don't set down giant roots, so it's pretty easy to pull out unwanted guests (or move them). Most of



them will need the proverbial 'well drained soil,' so don't include them in your bog garden; usually average garden soil is fine for these perennials. Even our hallowed poinsettias are euphorbias. But, (and I think this is the best part) a different species of euphorbia will look drastically different than a poinsettia, which will look much different than another euphorbia.

Here is a sample of some of the varieties that **may** be available this season (stock will vary based on availability of growers) :

*Euphorbia characias wulfenii*, a 4' tall by 4' wide plant with chartreuse flowers, is the workhorse of the genus, tolerating full sun to full shade, and is drought resistant. Wulfenii can reseed but is not invasive in our dry climate unless you add lots of water to its regimen. It will tolerate dryish full shade (or sun) while ignoring heavy deer pressure, a miracle plant!

*Euphorbia charac.* 'Tasmanian Tiger' is a handsome 2' plant with flowers and leaves edged in white, a nice variegated plant for contrast in the garden.

*Euphorbia* 'Miner's Merlot' is a 2' plant with heavily tinted purple foliage, chartreuse flowers spring through early summer, a stunner in bloom, handsome any time of year!

*Euphorbia* 'Ascot Rainbow' is a 2' plant Sensational sage and lime green foliage edged in an attractive yellow border that turns pink-flushed or peachy-salmon in colder months. Vibrant green and yellow striped bracts produce prolific, radiant red blooms throughout the warmer months.

*Euphorbia X martinii* is a 2' plant with green foliage tinged purple. Dense clusters of brown-centered chartreuse flowers come in late winter.

*Euphorbia 'Blue Haze'* is a 12" tall by 24" wide plant with powder blue foliage, soft yellow flowers spring - summer; it tolerates drought. It is a beautiful blue plant.

Most of these euphorbias flower yellow or chartreuse; they look great near purple flowers (like Verbena 'Homestead Purple') and burgundy foliage (think Loropetalum 'Purple'). They're extremely easy plants to include in a perennial garden, a shrub border, and they also do great in containers.

We will continue to acquire even more varieties as the plants show up in the trade. The plants are usually available in one gallon or 4" containers. Visit the euphorbias in the sun perennial section during your next trip into the nursery - my experience with these plants is that they do not disappoint!

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## LOVING YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE



Urban wildlife is booming along with new homes and commercial developments. Dwindling natural habitats mean wild animals must adapt to survive. A skunk family taking up residence under your deck may be cause for some alarm. Raccoons often ravage lawns looking for grubs to eat. Deer will eat just about anything with green leaves. These are just a few of the complaints. Following are some measures that can be taken to relieve some of these problems.

	<b>TELLTALE SIGNS</b>	<b>STRATEGIES</b>
<b><i>Raccoons</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Large areas of lawn uprooted or rolled up.</li> <li>-Koi missing.</li> <li>-Garbage cans toppled.</li> <li>-Pet food eaten (not by pets) and containers damaged.</li> <li>-Fruit and vegetable crops ravaged. They love figs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Turn off sprinkler timers during winter. Over watered lawns send grubs to the surface, attracting hungry raccoons.</li> <li>-Install motion –detector sprinkler heads.</li> <li>-Create places in ponds (ledges, etc.) for fish to hide.</li> <li>-Secure lids of trash cans (metal is recommended). Wheel trash containers to the curb on the morning of pickup.</li> <li>-Lock pet doors at night. Keep garage doors shut at night</li> <li>-Raccoons are especially fearful of dogs.</li> <li>-Don't leave pet food bowls or containers outdoors.</li> <li>-Block entrances to sheds, attics and chimneys with screens or flashing.</li> <li>-Keep fruit picked and picked up.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Opossums</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Garbage cans and bird feeders have been raided.</li> <li>-Pet food disappears overnight.</li> <li>-Lawn damage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Secure lids of trash cans (metal is recommended). Wheel trash containers to the curb on the morning of pickup.</li> <li>-Don't leave pet food outdoors. Lock pet doors at night.</li> <li>-Lock entrances to sheds, attics and under-house vents.</li> <li>-Keep all garage doors shut at night.</li> <li>-If you or your dog corners one, don't get close. Opossums do "play possum" and have very sharp teeth.</li> <li>-Install motion –detector sprinkler heads.</li> </ul>

<h1><i>Skunks</i></h1>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Pet food disappears.</li> <li>-Garbage cans and bird feeders raided.</li> <li>-Lawns uprooted in circular patterns</li> <li>-The odor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Lock pet doors at night. Keep garage doors shut at night.</li> <li>-Secure lids of trash cans (metal is recommended). Wheel trash containers to the curb on the morning of pickup.</li> <li>-Turn off sprinkler timers during winter. Over watered lawns send grubs to the surface, attracting hungry skunks.</li> <li>-Install motion –detector sprinkler heads.</li> <li>-Seal off foundation openings.</li> <li>-Skunks will make short charges and stamp their feet to give you ample warning to exit the area.</li> </ul>
<h1><i>Squirrels</i></h1>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Fruits and vegetables disappear or are partially eaten. Damage to fruit and nut trees, including girdled trunks, gnawed bark and root damage.</li> <li>-Bird feeders are emptied.</li> <li>-Plastic sprinkler heads and irrigation lines gnawed</li> <li>-Flower beds dug up. Vegetable seedlings eaten.</li> <li>-Nests in attics and chimneys.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-An outdoor cat can keep ground squirrels at bay.</li> <li>-Traps, baits and repellents.</li> <li>-Use squirrel-proof bird feeders.</li> <li>-Install chimney caps. Block entrances to attics.</li> </ul>
<h1><i>Deer</i></h1>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Garden plants have been eaten – especially tender new growth.</li> <li>-Shrub and tree damage from grazing.</li> <li>-Trunk bark damaged by rubbing antlers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-An 8’ woven-wire fence has proven the most effective strategy.</li> <li>-Plant deer-resistant plants. (note, nothing is deer proof)</li> <li>-Motion-activated devices. Large dogs deter deer.</li> <li>-Repellants work, but often not over the long haul.</li> </ul>

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## ***Creating Bonsai from starts or stock***



Bonsai, (pronounced as “bone-sigh”), is a fun and exciting living art that originated in China and was then refined in Japan. We have a selection of starts. These are small size that are easy to work with. You can also start with a 1 gallon, but that will take more patience. Those not grown as “pre-bonsai” or grown with the intensions of bonsai may need to be transplanted into a deeper pot at first for a couple of years of training before they are moved to a smaller/shallower bonsai pot. (Even in Japan they are planting their trees into deeper pots than in the past). The larger, longer roots and tap root will need to be reduced in size, (shortened), and a more “volcanic” soil used to promote a finer root system so that the tree will then stay healthy in a smaller bonsai pot.

A few examples of good plants to try are as follows:

Flowering shrubs that work well are Azaleas (especially Satsuki), Forsythia, Berberis (Barberry), Chaenomeles (Flowering Quince), Cotoneaster, Ilex (Holly) and Camellia.

Shrub-like conifers such as Juniperus, Chamaecyparis (Hinoki Cypress) and Cryptomeria make classic bonsai. Other large conifers that are most often seen are Pines, Cedars, Spruce and Redwoods.

Deciduous trees such as Acer (Maple), Pistacia, Crataegus (Hawthorn) and some Quercus (Oaks) are wonderful choices.

Wiring and most pruning are typically committed to in the winter season. Pruning should be accomplished with sharp, clean bonsai tools. Clean cuts heal over faster and create less of a wound or callus.

Two types of wire are used in the bonsai hobby today. Anodized aluminum and annealed copper are used to bend and shape branches and/or a trunk. Use aluminum wire on thin barked trees like Azaleas, Quince and Camellias. Copper is good for tough to bend trees with thicker bark such as Junipers, Pines and other conifers. Be careful not to wrap the wire too tight. Leave enough room between the wire and the branch to slide a piece of paper in.

The care of your bonsai trees are much like other potted plants. They need the appropriate amounts of water, sunlight and nutrients to keep them healthy for a long life. Transplant them every two to five years to “freshen” their soil and prune their roots.

The plants mentioned in this article are to be kept outdoors year round and should only be brought indoors to admire for a day or so at a time.

There are many aspects to the bonsai interest. An almost endless choice in horticultural and artistic enjoyment for everyone interested. Visit the nursery to see our selection of starts and Finished Bonsais.

