

## Things to do in April

### Plant Care

- Lightly prune or thin spring-blooming shrubs after they flower.
- Deadhead faded flowers from roses.
- Divide summer and fall blooming perennials.
- Plant containerized trees and shrubs (fall is best however).
- Mulch vegetable and flower beds to hold moisture, keep the soil cooler, discourage weeds, and improve soil.
- Continue planting the vegetable garden with warm season crops such as beans, corn, cucumbers, peppers, squash, and tomatoes. Add cages for tomatoes and cucumbers. Be sure they get plenty of sun.
- Plant summer and fall blooming annuals and perennials to add interest and color to your garden beds.
- Cutback dying foliage on oxblood lilies and spider lilies.
- Cut back freeze damaged shrubs and tropicals to green tissue where buds are sprouting.
- Cut back dormant perennials to the ground before the sprout.

### Fertilize

- Fertilize azaleas and camellias after they have finished blooming with azalea/camellia/gardenia fertilizer, 21-0-0, or cottonseed meal.
- Apply lawn fertilizer such as 15-5-10, 18-6-12, or 28-3-12 to evergreen shrubs, shade trees, and fruit and nut trees around the drip line.
- Feed lawns based on a soil test or with a 3:1:2 fertilizer such as 15-5-10 or a premium/professional type like 28-3-12 which contains slow-release nitrogen and micronutrients. Weed and Feed fertilizers aren't very effective and aren't recommended.

### Pests

- Check crapemyrtles for bark scale and treat with a systemic insecticide before they set flower buds to protect pollinators.
- Watch for brown patch (large patch) on St. Augustine grass and avoid irrigating until June, July, and August.

### Odds and Ends

- Clean bird baths and bird feeders to prepare for our flying friends.
- Put up hummingbird feeders if not done already.
- Clean out used nests in bluebird boxes to get ready for second brood.
- Repot houseplants and container plants on patio/deck and add slow-release fertilizer like Osmocote.