

MARCH – APRIL GARDENING TO DO LIST

Today is Sunday, March 30, 2014. I sit here looking out my window at...what else...snow! At the end of February I considered the “tips” to give you to get your gardens into shape and ready for planting. Then I continued looking out the windows as I am doing now. Rain, snow and then ice covered my trees and shrubs throughout most of the month. They suffered major damage. I hope yours did not. Now, at this point in time, we are no longer living in the Mid-Atlantic but the Mud-Atlantic, according to Justin Berk, a Baltimore meteorologist, and he is quite right.

Planting potatoes, peas and onions was to have been done on March 17th. If you were able to do so you must have missed all the drip and drizzle of the last few months! Our garden beds are, quite simply put, muck. Had I been on time with the plantings my potatoes would be rotting in the ground and my peas would have gone sliding down into the pasture with the sheep...much, I am sure, to their enjoyment and my irritation.

I do understand that Tuesday and Wednesday of this week will be lovely days. However, we will be experiencing cold nights and cool days with drizzle off and on for the next few weeks. I recommend during this time you check your garden tools, clean and sharpen them if this was not done in the fall (shame on you) and check the blades and tires on your mowers. Locate your gardening gloves, hats, etc. and make sure they are clean and ready to use. You might consider attending antique shops to search for good used old tools and shovels which were made to last and have. Choose these sunny days for raking, mulching, fertilizing and general cleanup. Apply cottonseed meal to your garlic plants if you have not done so already.

If you have not started your vegetable seeds as of yet you need to get busy! Our last frost date is considered May 15th and our growing season is approximately 166 days so plan accordingly.

Michael Judd, the founder of Ecologia, LLC, who spoke to us in November recommends the company One Green World if you are in the market for fruiting trees and/or shrubs, berries and more (www.onegreenworld.com). The Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds Company (www.RARESEEDS.COM) is committed to selling non-GMO seeds. They have a wide range of vegetable, flower and herb seeds that are most unusual. If someone is looking for a lovely perennial vine that grows to about 6 feet and rewards you with lovely pink flowing flowers I would suggest “Kiss-Me-Over-The-Garden-Gate which Baker Creek carries. It makes nice cut or dried flowers.

Some of you may be interested in adding roses to your gardens that are not only lovely but have wonderful fragrances. There are many sites but this will give you a place to start.

<http://www.rose-gardening-made-easy.com/fragrant-roses.html>