

# Spring List



## BEST TIME TO:

- **CUT BACK PERENNIALS.** Perennials are herbaceous plants that produce the new year's growth from the roots that are underground. They come back year after year. They can be trimmed back to within a few inches above the mulch/soil.
- **INSTALL NEW PLANTS.** The best time to plant your spring shrubs and trees is early in the spring. This gives the plants time to settle in and establish contact with the soil before the stressing summer heat hits.
- **INSTALL SUMMER BLOOMING BULBS AND ROOTS.**
- **CLEAN BEDS OF WINTER DEBRIS.** Eliminating leaves and debris from around plantings can help to reduce harboring of pests.
- **INSTALL SUMMER BLOOMING ANNUALS.** Begonias and marigolds and all the spring color flowers should be planted after the threat of frost. Low temperatures can also damage the tender spring growth. When in doubt, cover new summer annuals with plastic or cloth to prevent frost damage—or simply wait until the frost has passed.

## LANDSCAPE IDEAS FOR ROI (*Return on Investment*)

- **PLANT GROUPS, NOT SINGLES.** A group of plants has more impact than a single plant—especially with regard to flowers and shrubs. Planting single plants of different colors and varieties can have a cluttered look.
- **EDGE YOUR BEDS.** Stay away from permanent edges (like plastic, rubber or aluminum) unless you are retaining some other material like stone. Simple use a flat shovel and cut a V-shape trench between the lawn and the bed. It will define the bed, cut the roots of the grass and prevent its growth into the bed and will keep the mulch separated from the lawn. This virtually free treatment can make all the difference between looking maintained or unkempt.
- **RIGHT SIZE FOR SUCCESS.** In some cases, bigger is better—but there is a point when bigger is actually less effective. With perennials, 1 gallon is a good size for impact and survivability. You can start smaller but run



the risk of damage to the younger plant. Bigger than that and you are wasting money since the growth evens out within a year. For shrubs, no smaller than a 3 gallon plant. A 3 gallon plant has an established root system and can handle the transplant. It will offer a more immediate result and will establish well. For foundation plantings, a 5 or 7 gallon plant is more appropriate. For most residential landscapes, anything larger than a 7 gallon becomes cost-prohibitive, losing economy as the price jumps substantially for both labor costs and material costs.