

Spring Gardening Guide

Climbing roses: Reshape by pruning dead wood and old canes after spring bloom.

Herbs: Plant basil, cilantro, thyme, chives in sunny pots. An herb-filled whiskey barrel with oregano and rosemary by the BBQ pit can be handy! Keep mint in containers on the patio.

Perennials for summer color: Lantana, Gaura, Salvia, black-eyed Susan, & daylilies

Hardy shrub roses: Add fuchsia "Knock-Out" or true pink Super Star "Belinda's Dream".

Pansies and snapdragons: Pinch off spent blooms to inspire more flowers until they fade with the heat.

Easter lilies: Plant in a partial sun area with enriched soil after enjoying the blooms.

Container Gardens: Refresh with seasonal flowers mixed with trailing herbs and greenery.

Azaleas: Feed and prune after blooming. Water well and watch for mottling on leaves caused by lace bugs. Treat repeatedly with horticultural oil if necessary. (Consider native shrubs!)

Caladiums: Plant bulbs around Mother's Day. Look for new sun-tolerant varieties.

Sunflowers: Sow some birdseed in an area of the lawn and don't mow. Measure your kids next to the towering sunflowers in your bird garden"!

Bulbs: Let leaves fade naturally on narcissus and daffodil.

Pentas: Trim back by half and feed with liquid organics.

Hamelia: Don't give up on your hummingbird bush. It will re-leaf in late April.

Hibiscus: Prune to reshape and feed with hibiscus food (low middle number).

Warm Weather Color for Your Garden

Low growers: Ageratum, trailing Lantana, Verbena, Katie ruellia, Gomphrena, Impatiens, Begonia, creeping Jenny, Caladiums and Louisiana phlox.

Mid-level growers: Rudbeckia goldsturm, Penta, Salvias, Coreopsis, purple coneflower, Mexican milkweed, society garlic, zinnia, coleus, daylily, Angelonia, Iris.

Shrub/small tree height: Blue plumbago, Tecoma stans, Turk's cap, shrimp plant, Vitex tree, Texas star hibiscus, Hamelia, and Texas mountain laurel tree.