

April 1, 2012

Lawn:

- Due to the warm temperature, [Green Light Crabgrass Preventer with Dimension](#) can be applied 10 days earlier than normal, which means it can be applied now.
- Lawns sown or over seeded in late fall, winter, or spring should soon have an application of [Lebanon Tupersan 4.6G](#) to prevent summer crabgrass.

Trees:

- Eastern tent caterpillars will be hatching soon. If you see webbing in crab apple or cherry trees, you can eliminate the caterpillars by applying [Bonide Eight](#) in the evening. Target the webbed areas where caterpillars or web worms are present.

Easter Flowers:

- Easter Lilies can be planted outside after they are finished blooming. Easter Lilies are hardy trumpet lilies and will bloom for many years if fertilized properly with [Plant Trust Flower and Bulb Fertilizer](#) annually.
- Easter Hydrangea can also be planted outside in a partially shaded area after blooming. Before planting, cut the plant back to 1/2 its size and mix plenty of *Canadian Peet Moss* with the soil. After planting, water with [Kick Start](#) for rapid root growth. Feed the hydrangea 2 weeks after planting with [Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer](#); use 2oz of fertilizer per plant.

Flowers:

- Be very selective when buying annual flowers. Do not impulse buy now. Select hardy annuals for pot planting and place potted plants in sunny locations. Select geraniums, wave petunias, or dusty millers for early plantings.
- Ranunculus will bloom only for a few weeks. They will turn yellow and give up on warmer days, if not kept wet.
- It may be better to spend time planting new shrubs and trees now because now is an ideal time to plant shrubs and trees. Most summer flowers can be damaged by the cool evening temperatures.
- The best rhododendron to plant on the east coast is roseum elegance. This flowering shrub can be planted now.

Vegetables:

- Herbs that can be planted now in your vegetable garden are rosemary, lavender, parsley, garlic, mints, and thyme.
- Celery and arugula can also be grown now.
- It is much too early to take home peppers, tomatoes, sweet basil, and eggplants. It is better to buy these very young plants at the right planting time when the soil temperature is warmer. Be sure to buy these plants at a later date and buy them as young plants at the later time. If these plants are bought later, they will produce more fruit than those that are bought early and kept indoors. In the mid-Atlantic that will be early May. In New England and mid-West that will be late May. It will be even later if you live in higher elevations.

- A tomato plant or pepper plant planted in cold soil will not live long, will not yield many tomatoes/peppers, and is prone to disease.

Insects:

- Swarming winged insects that look like ants are not always termites. When the antenna on the winged insect is bent about 45° , then it is likely that the insects are swarming ants. Swarming ants can be controlled by using *Bonide Eight*. When the antenna is straight, then it is likely that the insect is a termite, and you need to call a licensed exterminator.