

**Post Rock Answers**  
**By Cassie Thiessen April 4, 2025**  
**Post Rock Extension District Horticulture Agent**

**April Gardening Calendar**

Spring is finally here, and it's time to take care of our blooming landscapes. This is a busy season for most of us, but getting outside can be relaxing and rewarding. Use this helpful checklist to have a colorful landscape this year.

**Vegetables and Fruits**

- Start fruit tree spray schedule when growth begins
- Plant carrots, onions, beets, and other salad crops in early April
- Thin radishes, beets, and carrots as needed
- Harvest asparagus until spear size decreases.
- Prune fruit trees if not already done
- Plant new fruit trees
- Plant asparagus and rhubarb
- Remove mulch from strawberry bed
- Prune raspberry and blackberry plantings
- Plant beans, corn, and vine crops in late April
- Cultivate to control seedling weed growth
- Turn the compost pile after a long winter rest
- Transplant broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage in the garden
- Fertilize the vegetable garden before planting

**Flowers**

- Cut back last year's growth from perennials
- Remove seed heads from spring bulbs
- Do not remove foliage from spring flowering bulbs, as growth is needed for next year's flowers
- Fertilize spring flowering bulbs
- Add organic matter such as compost before planting new flowers
- Divide perennials
- Plant new roses
- Prune rose bushes
- Fertilize rose bushes for spring growth
- Plant annuals from seed and transplants

**Lawns**

- Apply crabgrass control by mid-month
- Mow lawn as needed, bluegrass 2", tall fescue 3"
- Fertilize cool season lawns with slow release nitrogen fertilizer
- Do not fertilize zoysia this early in spring, nutrients go to weeds, not dormant grass
- Spot treat broadleaf weeds such as dandelions, henbit, and chickweed

- Check mower and make needed repairs before season begins
- Sharpen mower blade
- No need to catch grass clippings if mowing frequently
- Do not water unless extremely dry, early irrigation sets turf up as high water user in summer

### **Trees and Shrubs**

- Prune spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia and lilac after flowering
- Prune trees as needed, and repair winter storm damage
- Topping is not pruning, never top a tree
- Plant new trees and shrubs
- Remove grass from the base of young trees and shrubs to prevent lawn mower and line trimmer damage
- Apply mulch layer around plants
- Keep new trees and shrubs watered
- Fertilize young trees to promote growth

### **Houseplants**

- Remove winter dust from leaves by gently rinsing with room temperature water
- Repot as needed, increase pot size by 1"
- Leach excess fertilizers from soil with water
- Begin summer fertilization of plants
- Do not move plants outside until night temperatures remain over 60 degrees
- Propagate house plants by cuttings or divisions
- Fertilize amaryllis and keep in bright light to encourage new leaves

K-State Research and Extension has a variety of resources for all your gardening and landscaping needs this summer. Stop by or give us a call with your questions.

*Post Rock Extension District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith counties. Cassie may be contacted at [c thiessen@ksu.edu](mailto:c thiessen@ksu.edu) or by calling Beloit (785-738-3597).*