

# THE EL DORADO NURSERY AND GARDEN NEWSLETTER

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www.eldoradonursery.com



## Feb-May 2024



### GARDEN CALENDAR



#### What to do in February

- Apply third and final dormant spray on fruit trees (just before bud break).
- Fertilize annuals and perennials with a low nitrogen starter fertilizer or rose & flower food.
- Prune roses and fruit trees as needed.
- Plant summer blooming bulbs.
- Fertilize trees planted this year just after bloom.
- Apply iron to yellowing Gardenias, Azaleas, other acid-loving plants, and Citrus.
- Sow seeds indoors for spring planting later on.
- Start roses on a fungus prevention spray schedule.
- Spread wood ashes lightly around lilacs to benefit growth and aid blooming.

Free classes: RSVP 530-676-6555

#### **Rose Pruning and Care Clinic w/Juliet**

(unless rained out):

Feb 10<sup>th</sup> at 11am and again at 1pm

#### **Japanese Maple Pruning and Care Clinic w/Chris**

Feb 17 at 11am (unless rained out)



#### What to do in March

- Put yellow jacket traps out early to trap the Queen.
- Plant cool season vegetables. Sow warm season veggies indoors. See us for a planting guide.
- Rototill gardens and add organic matter. Do a soil test to see what nutrients you need to add. We have soil test kits available.
- Fertilize roses, evergreens, fruit trees, and berries.
- Prepare new lawn beds 6" deep.
- Shop for summer blooming bulbs and spring blooming shrubs.
- Spray roses with fungicide to prevent black spot and powdery mildew.
- Hoe or pick spring weeds. Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent weeds.
- March 31st is Easter. Happy Easter! We will be closed Easter Sunday.

Free classes: RSVP 530-676-6555

#### **Pest Control – Good, Bad, and Ugly w/ Julie Barbour**

March 17 at 11am (unless rained out):

#### **Veggie Care Clinic w/ Julie Barbour**

March 17 at 1pm



#### What to do in April

- April 15<sup>th</sup> is the estimated last frost date for the Placerville area; El Dorado Hills estimated date is April 1<sup>st</sup>; and Pollock Pines is May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Plant or divide perennials.

- Sow annual flowers and warm season vegetables outdoors after the last frost.
- Sow seeds of cold hardy perennials such as Veronica, Columbine, & Coral bells after the last frost.
- Spray for oak worms. See us for spray options.
- Set out traps for earwigs and snails. Traps can be homemade or bought. See us for products and ideas.
- Fertilize spring blooming shrubs, ground covers, and conifers.
- Prune spring blooming shrubs (lilacs, forsythia, etc.) immediately after bloom.
- Rototill gardens and add organic matter. Do a soil test to see what nutrients you need to add. We have soil test kits available.
- Thin fruit trees and fertilize. See us for products.
- Set out codling moth traps in your apple trees.
- Apply borer spray and whitewash trunks on fruit trees and flowering cherries.

Free Classes RSVP 530-676-6555

**Veggie Care Clinic w/ Julie Barbour**

April 14 at 11am (unless rained out):

**Pest Control – Good, Bad, and Ugly w/ Julie Barbour**

April 14 at 1pm

*What to do in May*

- Plant warm season vegetable seeds or starts.
- Prune spring blooming shrubs immediately after bloom.
- Check roses for aphids! Hose off plants and feed roses with systemic fertilizer if needed.
- Start new lawn from seed or sod.
- Thin fruit set on fruit trees (leave 6” between the ones you want to ripen). Prune for size control as needed.
- Mow lawns, removing less than 1/3rd the height.
- Plant summer annual flowers and perennials.
- Fertilize container plants with time-release fertilizer.
- Thin over-abundant seedlings in vegetable beds.
- Check and repair irrigation systems
- May 12<sup>th</sup> is Mothers Day. Gift Certificates to the Nursery make a great gift!



More like this: [Full year in the garden](#)

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**Around the Nursery:**



**Editor's Note- Unryu is the coolest Camellia!**

Upright rosemary

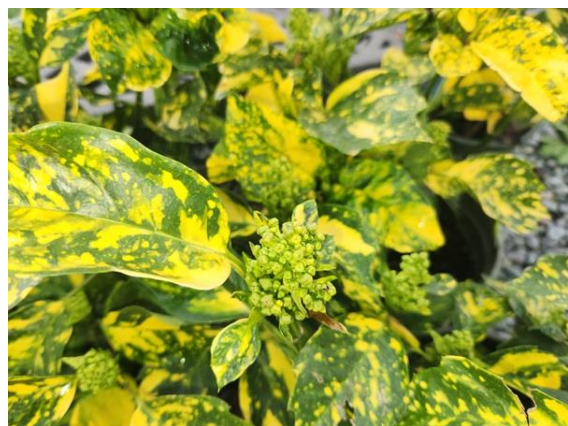


**Lots of Hellebores!**





**Nursery bug patrol**  
(we never see slugs or snails)



**Aucuba Sunny Daze**



**Podocarpus Roman Candle**



**Blooming  
Narcissus, yellow and  
white**

## Common Questions and Answers!

**Question** *Last year my roses were covered with yellow leaves that had black spots. What is it?*

Your roses were suffering from a fungal disease known as black spot. Roses also suffer from two other fungus diseases known as powdery mildew and rust. Over-wintering spores cause all of these diseases. Applying fungicides like Bayer Rose and Flower, or neem oil every 14 days during spring can successfully control these diseases.

**Question** *When can I plant my summer vegetables?*

Hold those tomatoes and peppers! Tomatoes and peppers hate cold weather and cold soil. We can still have frost until April 15<sup>th</sup>. These vegetables are better planted May 1<sup>st</sup>. Cool weather vegetables, such as peas, beans, lettuce and spinach, are some of the vegetables that can be planted now.



**Question** *My daffodils are starting to bloom. Can I cut them down after they bloom?*

Think of a bulb as a lunch box and the flower eats the lunch. The leaves must remain until they turn brown naturally. The bulb uses the leaves to manufacture more food to be stored in the bulb to create next year's flower. If the leaves are removed too soon the bulb dies. Fertilize bulbs after bloom.

**Question** *I have seen young trees painted white. Why is this done?*

Young trees, especially fruit trees, are painted to protect the trunk of the tree from sunburn. Sunburned trees are more susceptible to borer attack. The canopy of young trees is not large enough to shade the trunk. Young trees should be painted every spring until the canopy is large enough to shade the tree. Use Tree Trunk White or a mixture of 50% interior white latex paint and 50% water.

**Question** *When should I prune my camellia shrubs?*

Spring blooming shrubs such as camellias, azaleas, quince and forsythia should be pruned and fertilized just after they bloom.



**Question** *I have heavy clay soil. How can I prepare my garden areas?*

Now is a good time to add soil amendments, such as compost, to loosen your soil. There are many quality soil amendments available at the Nursery. Slow release fertilizers, such as composted manures, can also be added with amendments.

**Question** *Is there any way to prevent the summer weeds in my lawn?*

Applying pre-emergents can prevent summer weeds. Pre-emergents are herbicides that are applied in early spring just as the soil begins to warm up. They form a chemical barrier near the soil surface that kills the weed seeds as they germinate. Apply again in the fall.

**Question** *When should I begin using my irrigation system?*

You should irrigate all of your garden area anytime we have been without water for more than two weeks. Water thoroughly and then drain your system again in case of a late freeze. Make sure you run your system and make repairs in spring.

**Question** *Last year my garden was attacked by aphids. What can I do?*

Aphids are relatively easy to control. Natural enemies such as spiders and ladybugs can achieve control. Organic controls such as neem oil or pyrethrin are also very effective. Simply spraying them off with a stream of water can also control aphids.





## ***THE FUNGUS AMONG US***



All this much needed rain is wonderful for our drought. This wet weather also encourages some diseases and fungal problems to spread. The splashing rain spreads around those fungal spores really well! The following is a list of some disease problems to look for this spring and some remedies and preventative measures to help.



- **APPLE SCAB** - Also prevalent on pears. Dark olive colored spots on leaves and fruit. Over winters in infected leaves on the ground and spread by rain and over-head irrigation. Clean up leaves in fall/winter. Use a fungicide in spring.



- **SHOT HOLE FUNGUS** - Mostly on stone fruits. Reddish purple brown spots on leaves that eventually form a hole. Infected fruit have rough and corky lesions. Dormant sprays in winter and fungicide in spring. Prune out infected twigs in winter.



- **POWDERY MILDEW** - White powdery spots spreading on the foliage causing yellowing and leaf drop. It lives on a crop or weed host, wind can carry it, spreading it to other plants. Preventative measures are best, giving the plant good air circulation, avoid wet foliage and excessive high nitrogen fertilizer. Treat with fungicide at first sign of disease.



- **FIREBLIGHT** - A bacterium commonly seen on apples and pears, but can affect other plants. Flowers, shoots and young fruit shrivel and blacken. Can destroy limbs. Prune out infected twigs and branches. Disease is often spread by bees visiting the flowers in early spring. Fungicide used in fall and spring.



- **PEACH LEAF CURL** - Reddish, thickened, puckered, distorted leaves in spring. May also effect twigs, shoots and fruit. These spores survive the summer heat on the tree surface. Spread by splashing rain and water. Dormant spray in the winter. Seaweed Kelp Extract or MaxSea (kelp based fertilizer) applied as a foliar spray in spring helps the tree grow out over those infected leaves.



- **BLACK SPOT** - Commonly seen on roses. Round black spots on leaves eventually yellow, then leaves drop off plants. Good air circulation and avoid over head water. Apply fungicide in spring at first new growth as a preventative.



- **RUST** - Seen on many plants. Orange/yellow pustules on the underside of leaves. The tops of the leaves discolor, yellowing then dropping off. Cleaning up dropped leaves and using fungicide as a preventative.



- **BACTERIAL BLIGHT** - Often seen in stone fruit trees and some ornamental plants. Blossoms and tips die back. Brown black lesions form on flower, fruit and stems. lesions on infected twigs may ooze during wet weather and form gum deposits. Prune out die back and provide good air circulation. If the disease is systemic (inside the plant) or lesions form on the trunk the tree will often be in decline and need to be removed and replaced with a new tree.



- **SOOTY MOLD** - A blackish mold that looks like soot. It grows on honeydew secretions formed from plant sucking insects. The sooty mold is not harmful to the plant, but is a sign of insect problems such as scale, aphids or other sucking insects.

Many of these diseases can be wholly or partial prevented by cleaning up dropped foliage, providing good air circulation, avoiding excessive fertilizing, and pruning out any infected branches at first sign of disease (remember to sterilizer your pruning shears between cuts). Keeping the plants healthy with a good watering schedule, organic mulch a couple times a year along with a good organic slow release fertilizer containing mycorrhizae.

Fungicides work best when applied at the first sign of the disease or as a preventative. If you need to spray a plant for an extended period of time, alternate your products so the plant does not develop a resistance to the remedies. Spray and fertilizer schedules can be found on <https://www.eldoradonursery.com/local-info>.

