

HOW TO PREPARE A GARDEN FOR SPRING PLANTING

The first few weeks of spring are still chilly in many parts of the world. Despite those last vestiges of winter chills, now is a great time to begin preparing gardens for the coming planting season. Gardens may have to withstand months of harsh weather each winter, and such conditions can take a toll. Gardeners can consider the following tips as they try to restore their gardens and get them ready for spring planting.

If tools were not disinfected at the end of the previous gardening season, disinfect them before doing any work on the garden. Doing so can ensure any lingering bacteria or fungi on tool surfaces are killed prior to the beginning of gardening season. According to the University of Minnesota Extension, plant pathogens, including bacteria



and viruses, can be transferred to and infect plants through bits of soil and plant debris left on shovels and pruner blades. Thoroughly disinfecting such tools prior to using them in the spring is a great way to reduce the risk of disease in your garden.

• Disinfect your tools. It's common to clean tools in late fall or whenever they're typically placed in storage for the winter. But cleaning and disinfecting are not necessarily the same thing. • Loosen compacted soil. Soil can become compacted over winter. If compacted soil is not loosened prior to planting, plants will have a hard time getting the water and nutrients they need to thrive. Loosening the soil also provides another opportunity to inspect the garden for any underlying issues, such as fungi or weed growth, that you may have missed when clearing debris or testing the soil. Late winter is a good time to assess a garden and address any issues that developed over the winter so plants and vegetables can thrive come the spring planting season.

• Clear debris from garden beds. Leaves, twigs, sticks, and other debris may have gathered in the garden over the winter. Such debris can inhibit the growth of plants and vegetables, so make sure all of

sell home testing kits that are effective and easy to use. Once the results are in, speak with a professional at your local garden center about the best time to

baby, Mommy Mentors promote the well-being of new moms, which in turn supports the healthy development of their infants," explained Mann-Heintz. "It's a win-win-win. Safe Families for Children volunteers provide one more strand in that safety net of prevention to reduce child abuse and neglect by 90 percent by the year 2030."

Anyone interested in learning more about the program or volunteering can contact Mann-Heintz by email at Suzanne@safeshelterforsiuslawstudents.org or by calling 541-590-0779.

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stay at home anymore and needs a safe place to live while continuing their schooling. "All placements are temporary and voluntary, with Host Homes made up of volunteers who receive training provided by the program — with everyone's goal to keep children safe and keep families together," Mann-Heintz said. Another program of Safe

Families for Children is the Mommy Mentor program, where new moms are paired with more experienced moms who lend support during the first year or so of a baby's life. Mommy Mentors make themselves available a couple of times per month to help the new mom with advice, housework, free time, appointments, transportation, etc. "By easing some of the stresses of having a new

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BOTH MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY ON HOLD. WATCH SIUSLAW NEWS FOR RESUMPTION

- Tuesday Evening Group (2nd Tuesday) 5-7 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
- Urologist Dr. Bryan Mehlfahf attends.
- Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday) 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
- Urologist Dr. Roger McKimmy attends.

Contact Bob for more information:
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