### How to prepare a garden for spring planting

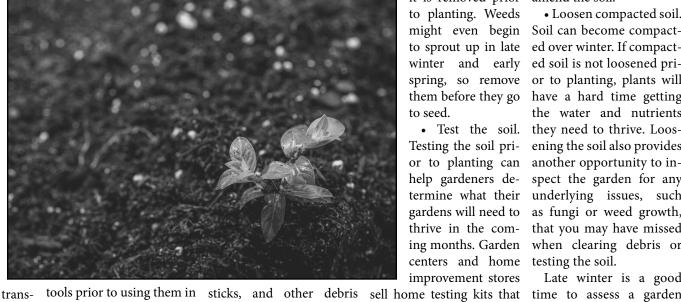
The first few weeks of If tools were not dis-**L** spring are still chilly in many parts of the world. Despite those last vestiges of winter chills, now is a great time to begin preparing gardens for the coming planting season.

withstand months of harsh or fungi on tool surweather each winter, and such conditions can take a to the beginning of toll. Gardeners can consider the following tips as they According to the try to restore their gardens University of Minand get them ready for nesota Extension, spring planting.

common to clean tools in and viruses, can be translate fall or whenever they're ferred to and infect plants typically placed in storage through bits of soil and for the winter. But cleaning and disinfecting are not and pruner blades. Thornecessarily the same thing. oughly disinfecting such

infected at the end of the previous gardening season, disinfect them before doing any work on the garden. Doing so can ensure any Gardens may have to lingering bacteria faces are killed prior gardening season. plant pathogens, • Disinfect your tools. It's including bacteria

plant debris left on shovels your garden.



reduce the risk of disease in

 Clear debris from garden beds. Leaves, twigs,

to planting. Weeds

centers and home testing the soil. improvement stores

the spring is a great way to may have gathered in the are effective and easy to garden over the winter. use. Once the results are in, Such debris can inhibit the speak with a professional growth of plants and vege- at your local garden cen- can thrive come the spring tables, so make sure all of ter about the best time to

it is removed prior amend the soil.

 Loosen compacted soil. might even begin Soil can become compactto sprout up in late ed over winter. If compactwinter and early ed soil is not loosened prispring, so remove or to planting, plants will them before they go have a hard time getting the water and nutrients • Test the soil. they need to thrive. Loos-Testing the soil pri- ening the soil also provides or to planting can another opportunity to inhelp gardeners de- spect the garden for any termine what their underlying issues, such gardens will need to as fungi or weed growth, thrive in the com- that you may have missed ing months. Garden when clearing debris or

> Late winter is a good and address any issues that developed over the winter so plants and vegetables planting season.

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#### PREVENT from page 1A

stay at home anymore and needs a safe place to live while continuing their schooling.

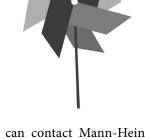
"All placements are temporary and voluntary, with Host Homes made up of volunteers who receive training provided by the program — with everyone's goal to keep children safe and keep families together," Mann-Heintz said.

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.

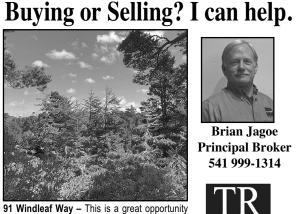
Mommy Mentors make themselves available a couple of times per month to help the new mom with advice, housework, free time, appointments, transportation, etc.

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 can contact Mann-Heintz percent by the year 2030."

"By easing some of the learning more about the dents.org or by calling Another program of Safe stresses of having a new program or volunteering 541-590-0779.



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