April Garden Calendar

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
Do not spray insecticides while fruits flower in order to protect the honeybees
Plant beans, corn, 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 vegetable garden before planting and incorporate

Flowers
Remove winter mulch from perennial garden
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 at leaf emergence
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
Plant summer bulbs

Lawns
Apply crabgrass control by mid month
Mow lawn as needed, bluegrass 2", tall fescue 3"
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 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 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
House Plants
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

Miscellaneous
Average last spring frost in Manhattan, April 18, May 9 is 95% frost free date

Additional resources for the month:
- Planting Ornamental Trees and Shrubs  MF-402
- Shade and Ornamental Trees for Kansas  MF-2688
- Growing Roses  MF-799
- Weed Control in Home Lawn  MF-2385