

Spring Garden Chores Checklist



1. Clean and Prepare the Garden

- ☐ **Remove debris:** Clear out dead plants, leaves, and winter mulch from beds and pathways.
- ☐ **Check for winter damage:** Inspect fences, trellises, raised beds, and garden structures for repairs.
- ☐ **Clean garden tools:** Sharpen and sanitize tools to prevent plant diseases.
- ☐ **Compost:** Turn and aerate your compost pile to keep it active and ready for use.

2. Plan Your Garden Layout

- ☐ **Create a planting schedule:** Consider companion planting and crop rotation.
- ☐ **Order seeds or seedlings:** Ensure you have the varieties of vegetables, fruits, herbs, and spices you plan to grow.
- ☐ **Start seeds indoors:** Begin with early crops like tomatoes, peppers, and herbs (basil, thyme) that need a head start before outdoor planting.
- ☐ **Consider succession planting:** Plan for continuous harvests by staggering planting times.

3. Prepare the Soil

- ☐ **Test soil:** Check pH levels and nutrient balance; amend if necessary.
- ☐ **Add compost or organic matter:** Enrich soil to improve structure and fertility.
- ☐ **Loosen soil:** Till or hand-turn the topsoil to prepare for planting.
- ☐ **Mulch pathways:** Lay down mulch to suppress weeds and retain moisture.

4. Set Up Irrigation and Watering

- ☐ **Check irrigation systems:** Ensure drip systems or sprinklers are in working order.
- ☐ **Install rain barrels:** Collect rainwater for sustainable garden watering.
- ☐ **Mulch around plants:** Help retain soil moisture and reduce the need for frequent watering.

5. Start Planting

- ☐ **Plant cool-weather crops:** Direct seed or transplant vegetables like lettuce, spinach, peas, radishes, and kale.
- ☐ **Transplant hardened seedlings:** Move indoor-started plants like tomatoes, herbs, and peppers outdoors after the last frost date.
- ☐ **Plant fruit trees and shrubs:** Spring is an ideal time to plant new trees or prune established ones.
- ☐ **Set up trellises:** Prepare supports for vining plants like beans, peas, and cucumbers.

6. Weed and Pest Control

- ☐ **Hand-pull early weeds:** Prevent weeds from taking hold before they spread.
- ☐ **Set up barriers:** Use row covers, cloches, or netting to protect young plants from pests.
- ☐ **Introduce beneficial insects:** Encourage ladybugs or lacewings to help with pest control naturally.

7. Monitor and Maintain

- ☐ **Check frost dates:** Keep an eye on the weather to protect young plants from unexpected frost.
- ☐ **Prune fruit trees:** Remove dead or damaged branches, and thin trees to increase air circulation.
- ☐ **Fertilize:** Apply organic fertilizers based on your plants' needs, especially nitrogen-heavy foods like leafy greens.
- ☐ **Keep records:** Track planting dates, varieties, and any issues that arise for future reference.



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