

Spring Homestead Checklist



Garden Preparation

- ☐ Start Seedlings Indoors: Vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants. Use grow lights or a sunny window.
- ☐ Prepare Garden Beds: Clear debris, turn soil, add compost or mulch, and build/repair raised beds or cold frames.
- ☐ Plant Cool-Season Crops: Directly sow seeds for crops like peas, lettuce, spinach, and radishes.
- ☐ Harden Off Seedlings: Gradually acclimate indoor seedlings to outdoor conditions before planting them out.

Planting Schedule

- ☐ Early Spring: Plant peas, spinach, radishes, and other cool-season crops.
- ☐ Mid to Late Spring: Transplant hardened seedlings; plant potatoes, onions, and frost-tolerant crops. Plant fruit trees, berry bushes, and divide perennials.

Orchard and Perennial Care

- ☐ Prune Trees and Shrubs: Prune fruit trees before they bud. Remove dead or damaged branches from all trees and shrubs.
- ☐ Plant New Trees and Shrubs: A great time to plant fruit trees, berries, and other perennials.

Livestock Care

- ☐ Check Fences and Gates: Ensure all fences and gates are secure and in good repair.
- ☐ Clean Animal Housing: Clean out chicken coops, barns, and other animal housing. Replace bedding to prevent disease.
- ☐ Prepare for New Animals: Set up birthing areas and gather supplies for any new animals arriving in spring.

Property Maintenance

- ☐ Clean Gutters and Roofs: Clear gutters and inspect the roof for any winter damage.

- ☐ Inspect Tools and Equipment: Clean, sharpen, and oil all gardening tools. Check and maintain machinery like lawnmowers, tractors, and chainsaws.
- ☐ General Property Clean-Up: Remove fallen branches, clear drainage ditches, and inspect for any winter damage across the property.

Home Maintenance

- ☐ Inspect the Home Exterior: Check for damage to siding, windows, and doors. Repair any leaks, cracks, or damaged weather stripping.
- ☐ Test HVAC Systems: Prepare cooling systems by checking and maintaining air conditioners or swamp coolers.

Compost and Soil Health

- ☐ Turn the Compost: Mix your compost pile to speed up decomposition and use the rich compost for your garden.
- ☐ Soil Testing: Consider testing your soil to determine if any amendments are needed for optimal plant growth.

Canning and Food Preservation

- ☐ Inventory Canning Supplies: Check your jars, lids, and equipment to ensure everything is ready for the upcoming harvest season.
- ☐ Plan for Preservation: Plan canning and preservation strategies as early crops start to produce.



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