



# ELGIN NURSERY

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[www.elginnursery.com](http://www.elginnursery.com)



## Desert Garden Calendar Monthly DO List

### APRIL

*April is our transition month in the desert, when the temperatures start to get up toward 100°F.*

*If we have had winter/spring showers we'll see beautiful wildflowers all over the Valley. As the weather warms up, you'll have to begin increasing the amount of water. Plants will indicate when they need water by having drooping, wilted leaves. Note the time interval; this will tell you just how many days between watering.*

*With warm weather, expect to see more aphids on vegetables, shrubs, fruit and shade trees.*

*The best control is natural predators such as ladybugs or praying mantids. If these are not available, there are several insecticides that we sell to do the job.*



### Grass

*Begin Bermuda grass seeding when nighttime temperatures remain at 65 degrees. Covering with mulch helps keep birds under control. Bermuda over seeded with rye will resume growth when we have 65 degrees nighttime temperatures. You can encourage last year's Bermuda to come out of dormancy and gradually kill the rye grass by mowing every four days and lowering the blade each time.*

### Trees/Shrubs

*Pay special attention to deciduous fruit trees, providing adequate soil moisture for fruit sizing in the late April and May period. Two to five year old citrus trees transplant most successfully. Larger, older trees are more costly, harder to transplant, and suffer more from transplant shock. It will generally be three years after transplant before fruit production and that is the same whether you plant a 2 year old tree or a 10 year old tree. Keep new plantings well watered for two weeks and then lengthen your irrigations out gradually until you are watering once a week. As the weather warms, adjust your irrigation timer to water more frequently. Deep, infrequent watering is much better than a daily sprinkle. Tree water use increases rapidly during this period of leafing out and gradually higher air temperatures. Apply nitrogen and zinc to pecan trees to produce normal size leaf growth and to enhance kernel development. Pecans also need more water than most other shade trees. If the normally upright leaves of agaves (century plants) or yucca look wilted, the snout weevil may be the culprit.*

*Apply a systemic insecticide. Prickly pear may develop fuzzy patchy scales. Spray with Malithion.*

*Prune off yellow and brown fronds and the seed spathes from your palm trees.*

*You can and should remove stakes from all trees staked more than a year ago.*

### Flowers

*Allow your wildflowers to go to seed. They will produce a natural healthy feast for birds as well as reseeding themselves to come up again next year.*

### Vegetables

*Plant seeds: beans (lima & snap), black eyed peas, carrots, cucumber, jicama, melons, okra, summer squash, green onions, peanuts, radishes, scallions, green beans. Plant transplants: eggplant, melons, cucumber, squash. If you haven't pruned your herb garden, now is the time to do it. For frost damaged herbs, look for new growth emerging on the lower half of the plant. Use sharp shears to cut the plant back by 1/3 to 1/2 or more, down to healthy new side shoots. Add new compost and water well. Fertilize producing vegetable gardens.*



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## Monthly DON'T list for April

1. *Don't prune citrus except to remove dead or damaged wood & branches obstructing pathways, views, or structures.*
2. *When pruning never remove more than 1/4 of the total plant. Always use sharp, sterile, quality pruning tools and disinfect them between cuts to prevent the spread of disease.*
3. *Don't cheat on soil preparation for flowers and vegetables.*
4. *Don't fertilize dormant Bermuda grass until late April or May.*
5. *Water both the day before and immediately after applying granular fertilizers.*
6. *Don't water grass at night when the temperatures are coolest as this fosters the growth of fungal disease.*
7. *Don't mow when grass is wet. This also may result in fungal disease.*
8. *Don't delay on weed control.  
Handle weeds while they are young, tender, & their roots are manageable, or before they sprout.*
9. *Don't use a pre-emergent in an area where you are going to plant veggies and flowers from seed. It will prevent seeds from germination. It will not affect transplants.*
11. *Bird holes in saguaros scab naturally; don't try to repair them.*