

Tips for April Gardeners **from the Eden Project**



It should be safe to plant most summer-flowering bulbs, so long as they are planted deep enough – about 4". However, if cold weather returns it would be a good idea to add a couple of inches extra of mulch.

Dahlia tubers can be planted outside in milder areas, again about 4" deep.

Dead-head daffodils as necessary, to encourage strong flowering next year. Allow leaves to die back naturally, to feed the bulbs. You may also wish to give them a periodic feed at this time.

Sweet peas can now be sown outside. Some types may start better if you give them a gentle rub with sandpaper or soak them in water for 24 hours. Once they have reached about 6" it's best to remove the growing tip, to get extra shoots and more flowers.

It's a great time to start sowing salad crops, and repeat every couple of weeks.

All things "oniony" can be planted out now, but keep an eye on the new shoots, as birds will often lift them for nothing more than a little fun! Be sure to leave room between rows of onions, as they can be easily damaged when hoeing out weeds. Garlic can be planted out, about 2" deep and 6" apart – into mounded rows (to help with drainage)

Currant bushes, blackberries and other hybrid berries will benefit from a high nitrogen fertiliser feed, such as sulphate of ammonia. Check the pack for manufacturers' recommendations for application.

Your lawn will improve if you remove moss, then fork or tine over the whole area to improve surface drainage. Increase the frequency of mowing to encourage basal growth, apply "moss, feed and weed" fertiliser and check regularly for weeds. Re-seed where necessary.