

### **Last Call!**

Vegetable Gardening 101 - Saturday, April 4, 10am  
& Tuesday, April 7, 5:15pm  
Please call us, 388-4877, to save a seat.

### **Can it be? After this long winter?**

It's nearly time to get out into the vegetable garden! This week's rains are driving the frost out of the ground. Early season crops can be very rewarding. As soon as you can work the soil, plant potatoes, onions, radish, broccoli, cabbage, kohlrabi, Brussels sprouts and cauliflower. While you're at it, plant lettuce, spinach and cilantro but be ready to protect them from frost. One method to protect tender plants is to use floating row covers which let sunlight and water in but not frost. They also warm the soil a bit and protect from insect damage.

### **Sterilize Your Tools**

While waiting for warm weather get your tools and pots ready to go. To prevent the spread of disease, sterilize your pots and coco liners before you plant vegetables and flowering annuals in them using the following steps.

1. Empty containers of soil and old plants
2. Wash in soap and water & rinse well.
3. Dip in a 10% bleach solution & rinse well.
4. Dry thoroughly.

### **Give Spring Time**

Last week we mentioned to keep out of your perennial beds and to refrain from raking the lawn. The reasons are similar for both because they still need protection from, surely, upcoming cold spells.

Raking vigorously can disturb those tender grass plants throughout the lawn before they can get really well rooted. In addition, unless you really have a thatch problem, that dead grass material will help prevent weeds and will compost to help feed your lawn. Just be sure to pick up any piles of leaves that will prevent grass from growing.

### **Treating Dog Spots**

If you have dogs, however, you may notice some dead spots in the lawn from winter wear and tear. Now's the time to scout for those and take action. On old urine spots flood them with water by either putting the hose on them for several minutes or dousing the spot with 5 or so gallons of water. Then, sprinkle a bit of garden gypsum on the spot, water it in and then ready it for grass seed planting. Once the frost is out of the ground, go ahead with the seed. If you need the extra base, add a bit of top soil or compost in the spot. That will help with the next step too. Always make sure the seed makes contact with the soil so after you sow it, be sure to go back over it with the back of the rake or drag an old rug over the spot.