

Vibrant Flowers to Plant in Springtime

As DC's cherry blossoms usher in spring, it's time to consider what flowers you might want blooming in your yard. Planting vibrant flowers and bountiful shrubs creates a scenic landscape that's sure to make your home the envy of the neighborhood. So if you've been eager to put your green thumb to work, get ready because spring is here and the bulbs are waiting!

Just one caveat: make sure the last frost has passed. You don't want another cold spell to sabotage the masterpiece landscape you're destined to create.

Here are some flowers bursting with colors that you'd might like to consider.

- Bulbs - Begonias, Calla Lilies, Canna Lilies, Dahlias and Gladiolus
- Perennials - Clemantis, daylilies and Phlox
- Annuals - Snapdragons, Rose Mallow, Cosmos and Verbenas
- Shade plants - Astilbes, Bleeding Hearts and Bellebores

Gardening not only gets you outside in the fresh air, it also provides a good bit exercise and a healthy dose of vitamin D. So go ahead, grab your trowel and get busy making your yard beautiful!



6 Tips for a Terrific Lawn

You know you want it. A lawn so luscious, you're ready to kick off your shoes and dance barefoot in the grass, every time you pull in the driveway. So here are a few tips to help make your longing desires a rosy reality!

- Mow frequently with a sharp blade to keep grass growing thicker, while holding weeds at bay.
- Don't cut too short. The lower you cut, the more water and herbicides are needed to keep grass healthy.
- Avoid mowing wet grass because it causes compaction of the soil and causes bald spots across your lawn.
- Water deeply, but not too frequently. Watering your lawn too much causes thatch and shallow roots. As difficult as it may be, resist overwatering. Just water well when needed: and one way to tell when your lawn needs watering is if footprints remain when grass is compressed.
- Don't use too much fertilizer. Over-fertilizing burns the grass, turns it brown and interferes with its moisture uptake.
- Aerate your lawn to loosen compacted soil, allowing water to better reach its roots.