

*Learn 'n Grow Class at SummerWinds Nursery:*

# Spring Prep

Raise your hand if you can't wait to get back in the garden! Make the most stunning botanic display this year by putting in some important grunt work now. You'll be glad you did once the weather is nice and all those colorful annuals are calling out to you at your local garden center.



## **Get your tools pristine.**

Now is the time to uncover all your gardening tools. Make sure they are clean, sharp, and well-oiled. Get your cages, trellises, and other support systems organized and ready for use. Are you going to grow fast-growing sweet peas? They'll need a thin and tall trellis, or a netting, to climb.

## **Clear out debris.**

Remove fallen leaves and debris from your garden area. Clean the area down to bare soil. Once danger of frost is gone, remove mulch from all areas where you'd like to plant. While you do this task, it is important to pull out weeds too. You don't want them to grow and eventually compete with your plants' root systems.

## **Prune.**

Late winter/early spring is a great time to prune plants that bloom on new wood. Check online or ask a garden expert if you are unsure about a plant's growth habits before you cut. Plants you can prune now include: roses, honeysuckle, wisteria, butterfly bush (*Buddleia*), and hydrangea paniculata. Make sure to sterilize your blades with isopropyl alcohol before each cut, so you don't accidentally spread any plant disease.

## **Prepare Soil.**

Once frost has passed, it is a good idea to loosen up your compacted winter soil by tilling it. You can add amendments like compost to help with texture, nutrient content, and moisture retention.



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