**Pruning/Cleanup**

* Trim summer flowering shrubs such as rose of sharon and spirea
* Remove winter mulch from around perennials on a cloudy day but leave it there until warmer weather, early May
* Cut back last year’s foliage on epimedium, hellebores and liriope.
* Start weeding! Try to pull hair bittercress before it goes to seed!

**Perennials/Shrubs Care**

* Fertilize trees and shrubs if not done yet
* Apply Bonide's Rose Shield or Dr. Earth Rose & Flower
* Apply aluminum sulfate to turn hydrangeas blue (H. macrophylla group)
* Divide perennials after growth is 3-4” high.
* Re-pot tropical plants if needed.
* Spray emerging tulips and daylilies with a deer repellent to prevent chewing by groundhogs and deer. Good luck!

Mid-month

* Apply Preen to landscape beds if not done yet.  Plant pansies
* Install a peony ring to garden peonies now before growth continues
* Top dress perennial beds with a thin layer of Sweet Peet or compost
* Plant trees and shrubs
* Start spraying roses with Neem Oil & Bi-Carb to keep blackspot and insects at bay
* Last day to plant bare root trees, shrubs and fruits
* Wait to apply mulch until soil has warmed, later in April or early May.
* New plantings usually begin about 3rd week

**Vegetable Garden**

* Start tomatoes from seed inside
* Plant peas if you haven’t already.

Mid-Month

* Plant blueberries for fruit and landscape beauty
* Plant cold hardy veggies such as cabbage, Brussel sprouts, cauliflower and broccoli
* Till in Sweet Peet for new garden beds or mulch with Sweet Peet for existing beds
* Start harvesting rhubarb by pulling off stalks

Sources:

Dayton’s Nursery Website - <http://www.daytonnursery.com/knowledge-base/month/>

The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting and Pruning Techniques by Tracy DiSabato-Aust, Timber Press, 1998.

Great website:

<http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds/native-plants>

All you need to know to help our feathered friends.