



Spring Fever!

If you are feeling like the staff here at Culver's, you are probably catching a little spring fever! There are a lot of new things going on around here and we are excited to get the season started. If you are looking to have some landscaping done this year, now is the time to contact one of our talented landscape designers for your FREE consultation! The calendar is starting to fill up for spring, so don't delay! We are also excited to introduce some new plants to the nursery and new merchandise to the garden center this spring as well.

With winter coming to an end, it is time to start thinking about your landscape. The snow that we have received over the winter has acted as a great insulator and the moisture is greatly appreciated. As the snow melts you should start to observe the condition of your plants and lawn. Take note of plants that may have fungus or rotting problems. Be sure to rake and remove all debris left behind from fall.

Early spring is a great time to clean up your garden tools and equipment. Sharpen the blades on your pruners and mowers. It is important to keep your tools sanitary to avoid spreading diseases to other plants. It is also a good time to stock up on supplies and seeds. You could also begin making your garden markers for your seeds and plants!

This is also the time to cut back and remove all debris from your perennials and annuals. Do not remove the foliage from fall bulbs until it has completely died back and pulls out of the ground easily without disturbing the bulb. April is usually a good time to divide and transplant perennials. Wait until they are about 4" tall before digging them. It is a good idea to add compost and a slow release fertilizer to your beds and when you transplant. Add fresh layer of mulch to planting beds and spreading a pre emergent herbicide (Preen) will help to keep the weeds from coming up. Always follow the directions on the package for best results!

It is safe to plant most trees and shrubs as soon as the ground is workable. Be sure to pay close attention to the depth that you are planting. It is very important that you do not plant them too deep. Refer to the Culver's New Planting Guide for more specific information. After the frost free date (around Mother's Day) it is safe to plant summer bulbs, annuals and tender perennials.

*Don't forget to keep all of your plants **watered** if rain is not sufficient! 1" per week is a good guideline for most plants.

To Prune or Not to Prune

Spring is full of blooming trees and shrubs, which raises the question...

When is the best time to prune?

For plants that bloom in the spring, it is best to prune soon after they are finished blooming.

Those plants that bloom in the summer

or fall should be pruned in early spring.

For trees and shrubs in the pine family, it is best to remove the new candles while they are soft. Wait until June to shape up all other evergreens.

Feel free to stop by or call the Garden Center for any other questions!

Mulch vs. River Rock

We're often asked about the pros and cons between River Rock and Mulch in planting beds. Many of the staff members at Culver's prefer mulch, because it is best for your plants. It adds organic matter to the soil as it decays and helps retain moisture. It does require topdressing in the spring and fall. Again, using pre-emergent herbicides will cut down on weeds. Rock with landscape fabric only needs to be applied once and is good for about ten years before it needs to be replaced. It is the best for keeping weeds under control, but it does reflect the sun and creates a lot of heat which is not good for your plants. When choosing between rock and mulch decide what the purpose of the bed is. If you are going to be changing or adding plants, mulch is a better option, if it is a permanent foundation planting most people prefer rock because it does not require topdressing.