



Newsletter



Happy April!

Spring has finally arrived!
To celebrate, the staff at Sooty's garden centre
have been very busy restocking the centre to
prepare!

With new product ranges arriving daily, and spring
bulbs in stock now's the perfect time to grab your
wellies, and go gardening!

Don't forget to follow us on other socials too!

www.sootysweeps.com



@sweepscafeatsootysplants



@sootysandsweeps



@sootysplants

Beautiful flowers

At Sooty's garden centre we have huge range of plant options, all competitively priced and at the highest quality!
Here are just a few of our staff favourites this month which we have in stock at the moment!



Magnolia
'Stellata'



Ferns



Ornamental
Cherry



Skimmia



Narcissus



Lavandula
Stoechas

Jobs to do in the garden this month



Remove moss and weeds in turf, and boost growth with lawn feed



Hoe between rows of veg seedlings regularly to prevent weeds



Lay turf or sow grass seed to create a new lawn or repair damaged patches



Keep cloches or large sheets of fleece handy to protect young plants



Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)



Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters



Treat problem weeds, such as nettles and brambles



Keep putting out food for birds, as they're busy raising their broods

Promoting wildlife in your garden

NEED HELP?
GIVE US A CALL

01772 816901

WHEN IT COMES TO SUPPORTING WILDLIFE IN YOUR GARDEN, SOOTY'S HAS YOU COVERED.

Whether you're looking for various types of bird feed, bird feeders, bird houses or bug hotels - Sooty's has you covered! Even down to providing food and shelter for your local hedgehog family!

Pop in today to see what we have!



If you are unsure of which products you need, or whether you're curious to know whether a specific plant will help attract your favourite bird species to your garden - please ask a member of our staff, who will happily assist you in-store or over the phone, however best they can!

Blooming lovely flowers

Sooty's Plants also has a diverse range of flower seeds in stock.

To further promote wildlife and nature in your garden, we recommend allocating a small section of our garden to grow a wide variety of flowers.

Our seeds include many annuals - which are easy to grow and provide vibrant colourful flowers throughout summer.



Our top tips for gardening flowers in April are

- Sow hardy annuals, such as love-in-a-mist and pot marigolds, as well as native wildflowers, into gaps in borders
- Enjoy instant colour by planting primulas and polyanthus in pots and at the front of borders
- Protect the new shoots of hostas, delphiniums, lupins and other vulnerable plants from slugs and snails
- Continue deadheading spring bulbs and bedding, so they don't waste energy setting seed
- Sow sweet peas at the base of supports, and transplant those sown in autumn into their final positions
- Spray the new leaves of disease-prone roses with fungicide to control mildew, rust and blackspot
- Take basal cuttings from clumps of perennials, such as delphiniums, campanulas and lupins
- Prune hydrangeas, cutting back the old stems to a healthy shoot lower down
- Sow sunflowers in a sunny, open site, then water regularly and protect seedlings from slugs and snails



POT IT LIKE ITS HOT



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A FUN WAY TO ADD STYLE AND COLOUR TO YOUR GARDEN?

Garden pots are a fantastic way to add colour and style, while also serving many benefits!

Planting in pots allows for portability with your plants and flowers (to help avoid damage from the wind, rain, or sunshine.)

They also can be used to make affordable barriers and pathways inside your garden!



POP INTO SOOTY'S TODAY TO CHECK THEM OUT!

April Planting & Harvesting Guide

Sowing and planting

Fruits

- March is your last chance to plant bare-root fruit trees (ideally plant container-grown ones too).
- Plant cold-stored strawberry runners.
- Sow seeds of alpine strawberries.

Vegetables

- Plant onions, shallots, and garlic sets.
- Plant Jerusalem artichoke tubers.
- Chit early and maincrop potatoes.
- Plant asparagus crowns.
- Indoors, sow seeds of sweet peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines, celery, salads, and globe artichokes.
- In mild areas with light soil, sow seeds outdoors. Broad beans, carrots, parsnips, beetroot, onions, lettuce, radish, peas, spinach, summer cabbage, salad leaves, leeks, turnip, summer cauliflower, swiss chard, and kohlrabi.

Ready to Harvest

Fruits

- Forced rhubarb

Vegetables

- Spring onions
- Radishes
- Spring cauliflower
- Spring cabbages
- Jerusalem artichokes
- Leeks
- Overwintered lettuce
- Asparagus
- Kale
- Sprouting broccoli





April



General maintenance

Fruit

- Liquid feed fruit trees in pots with a balanced feed every fortnight.
- Where possible, protect plum and pear flowers from frost but allow insects access for pollination.
- Damp down or mist citrus plants regularly when flowering begins. Maintain a min temperature of 14°C (57°F).
- Deblossom strawberries planted after September in their first year to help the establishment.
- Pick forced strawberries under heated glass.
- Ventilate strawberries under cloches and mulch with straw or mats.
- Avoid using insecticides on crops in flower.

Vegetables

- Support pea plants with sticks, twigs, green support mesh, or wire netting.
- Thin out rows of seedlings as soon as they are large enough to be handled.
- Protect early outdoor sowings with fleece and polythene.
- Continue to force witloof chicory and seakale.
- Dig up selected chicory roots, pot them up, and position them in a dark warm place (10-13°C; 50-55°F), with an upturned pot over them.
- Prepare runner bean supports for sowing (in May) or planting out (in June).

Problems

- Apply apple and pear scab controls.
- Deal with aphids, apple sucker, pear sucker, pear midge, caterpillars and powdery mildew.
- Look out for red spider mite and aphids on strawberries under glass and treat accordingly.
- Start treating for American gooseberry mildew.
- Keep on top of weed control and continue through to summer.

Quiz Time!

Good luck!

Which of these bulbs, when cooked, is considered good to eat?

- a. Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*)
- b. Daffodil (*Narcissus*)
- c. Tiger Lily (*Lilium. lancifolium*)

Which best describes ideal conditions for growing raspberries?



- a. moisture-retentive, slightly acidic soil, sunny position
- b. well-drained, acid soil, shady position
- c. alkaline soil, windy, sunny position

Why do people believe pea and bean roots should be left in the ground after harvesting?

- a. To release nitrogen back into the soil
- b. To sanitise the soil
- c. To keep predators at bay



Which family of flowering plants has the most species?



- a. Asteraceae (Sunflower family)
- b. Orchidaceae (Orchid family)
- c. Liliaceae (Lily family)

The Hanging gardens of Babylon are in which modern day country?

- a. Lebanon
- b. Iraq
- c. Jordan



*We can't wait to
welcome you!*

