



APRIL

→ NOTES

## TO-DO LIST

- Prune early-blooming shrubs, such as *Ribes sanguineum* and *forsythia*, after flowering.
- Clip and tidy up winter-flowering heathers as they finish blooming.
- Deadhead grape hyacinths, tulips and daffodils. Feed bulbs after flowering with 6-8-6 fertilizer.
- Cut away old leaves around the Lenten rose (*Helleborus orientalis*) to expose the flowers.
- Continue dividing and planting perennials as well as finding places for new trees and shrubs.
- Plant seed potatoes, using certified virus-free stock, either whole or cut into pieces with two or three eyes—tiny indentations from which the sprouts will grow—facing up.
- Plant beets, broccoli, carrots, celery, cauliflower, cabbage, kohlrabi, onions, parsnips, turnips, Swiss chard and lettuce.
- Start tomato, zucchini and cucumber seeds indoors for transplanting outdoors in June. Pick early-ripening tomatoes—ones that ripen in 60 days or less—such as ‘Tumbler’, ‘Sungold’ and ‘Sweet Million’. Other reliable picks include ‘Siletz’, ‘Kootenai’ and ‘Oregon Spring’.
- Get dahlia tubers started in recycled black plastic pots or milk cartons for transplanting in May.
- Get control of the herbaceous border early, staking plants known for their floppy or unruly nature.
- Plant hanging baskets, but keep them in a protected environment until May.