

# SNAPE GARDENING CLUB - NEWS



ISSUE NO 34 | APRIL 2025 |

How quickly the "gardening calendar" moves along.....already the Winter flowers are over and now we welcome the glorious Spring colour.....the sunny yellow of the daffodils, the bursts of blossom and the tumbling jewel that is aubretia alongside the fields of rapeseed (known as happy fields in this house!).....it really is a very welcome sight. The longer days are here and the soil is warming and perennial plant life is working hard for this years performance. This months edition gives you tips and jobs to be getting on with. If you have a photo of Spring wonder in your garden, or if you've been out & about, then send it along for an article next month..... happy reading everyone x

*April is grass month - to revive our lawns from the Winter toughness & to prepare them for the Summer to come. Here are some basics that will definitely help - scarify, aerate, spot treat, feed & over-seed.*

**Scarifying** - This scrapes out the moss & dead matter from the lawn base. Allowing better air flow & will help prevent that "spongy" feeling lawn. There are specialist tools available, but some energy & a garden rake will work wonders.....be prepared your grass will probably look worse but that's ok!



**Weeds & Moss** - Dig out the grass weed if possible, to reduce the need for chemicals & if the turf is moss riddled then iron sulphate can be used. (scarifying & aeration will help)



**Aerate** - Grass can become compacted & this means oxygen & nutrients are unable to work as they should & the grass becomes patchy & struggles to flourish. Aerating is the process of spiking the grass between 2-6 inches (5-15cms) which allows the movement of rainwater, feed & nutrients to access the grassroots. This can be done with elbow grease & a garden fork or a rolling lawn aerator.

**Feed & Mow** - As the grass starts to grow it's hungry & needs feeding. The first few mows should be done with the blades high & gradually reduce them - a little & often - not a scalping! Overseeding can be done after the above jobs & the daytime temperature is around 13'.

## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS MONTHS ISSUE.....

- AROUND THE WORLD
- DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER - A grass special!
- JOBS TO DO

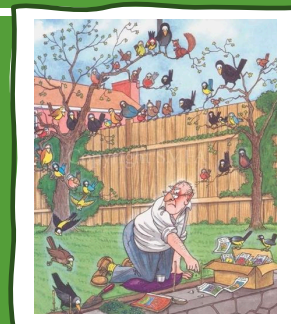
PLUS SO MUCH MORE...



Send us a photo, recommend a place to visit or have a query we'll do our best to help.....

- GIVE IT A TRY -

[dearworzel@gmail.com](mailto:dearworzel@gmail.com)





Do you know the answer?

- a) What is the name of a traditional hand-held implement for knocking the moisture off blades of grass?
- b) What is the broom called that is made from a stout pole with twigs attached to one end, used by gardeners to sweep top dressing into the lawn?
- c) What is the Latin name for grass?

**TULIP & SPRINGTIME VISITS.....Here are a few ideas for Spring days out.....**

- o Try something different & have a "dawn" walk to experience the soft morning light amongst the blossom & the Spring walled garden at Raby Castle - **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 8.30am** - tickets via the website - [www.raby.co.uk](http://www.raby.co.uk)
- o Mallard Grange Farm in Ripon, open their "NEW" tulip walkway on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 10-4**, ticketed only event - £5. There will be a PYO add-on option. [www.mallardgrangefarm.co.uk](http://www.mallardgrangefarm.co.uk)
- o A date for next month.....**Constable Burton Tulip Weekend - Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> May - Mon 5<sup>th</sup> May, 10-4**. Earlybird tickets £10 or £12 on the day. [www.constableburton.com](http://www.constableburton.com)

**HYDRANGEA PRUNING** - Now is the last opportunity to prune hydrangeas. As with most larger genus there are exceptions & hydrangeas are no different! BUT, do this incorrectly & there will be no glorious blooms this Summer.....so read on!

Pruning Principle  
- remove dead, diseased & damaged stems.

You need to know which variety of hydrangea you grow. There are 2 types: one that flowers on "old wood" & one that flowers on "new wood"

Hydrangea Macrophylla (mophead & lacecap varieties) flower on old wood or last year's growth.

They can be deadheaded after flowering, but in our chilly climate it's best to leave the spent flowerheads over Winter to protect the new buds.

Cut out a few of the oldest stems right back to the base, this helps to reinvigorate the shrub. Prune the remaining stems to a pair of healthy buds below the faded bloom.



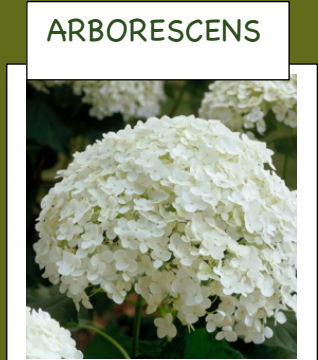
MOPHEAD



PANNICULATA



LACECAP



ARBORESCENS

Hydrangea Panniculata & Arborescens flower on new wood or this year's growth. Follow the pruning principles and then cut back to the lowest pair of healthy buds. If left un-pruned this variety will become a tangled mess with progressively less flowers!

*Climbing hydrangeas are pruned AFTER flowering in July.....watch out for that edition of the newsletter!*

Lift & divide established border perennials e.g. hostas - improves vigour & gives you free plants

Pinch out fuchsia & sweetpea shoots

Get plant supports in

Trim Winter flowering heathers to maintain their shape

Feed roses with a slow release fertiliser

Thin out carrot seedlings (do it in an evening to reduce the risk of a carrot fly attack!)

Houseplants will need more regular care of water & feed. Ensure leaves aren't dusty which reduces photosynthesis

Feed raspberry canes & fruit bushes with slow release fertiliser

## APRIL JOBS TO DO.....

Mulch fruit trees with well rotted manure/compost

Deadhead Winter pansies

Top up raised beds and containers with fresh compost

Support peas & beans

Protect fruit blossom on cold nights with fleece

Dig a minimum of 5cms (2") of compost/well rotted manure/green waste into your prepared veg beds

Deadhead daffodils

Water containerised plants in a dry spell and start to feed as growth starts in earnest

Tie in climbing roses



WOODLAND TRUST

Did you know that climate change has already accelerated Spring's arrival by an average of 8.4 days compared to the early 1900's! The "Woodland Trust" need our help to find out whether the *signs* of Spring are changing too.

Let them know if you have spotted any of the 3 signs:  
**frogspawn....**

**a singing song thrush....**

**flowering blackthorn....**

These records are crucial in helping them understand current threats and how climate change is affecting the health of nature.

You don't have to spot all 3!!

Go onto [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) to download the form &/or submit the data

## RECORD SPRING'S VITAL SIGNS

Help us check the health of nature by logging your spring sightings.

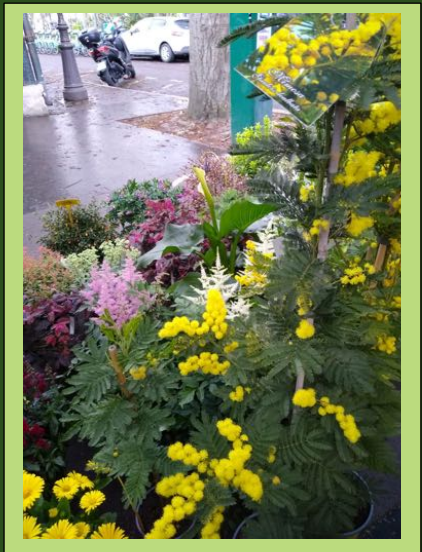
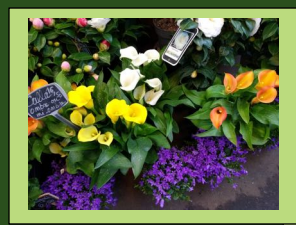
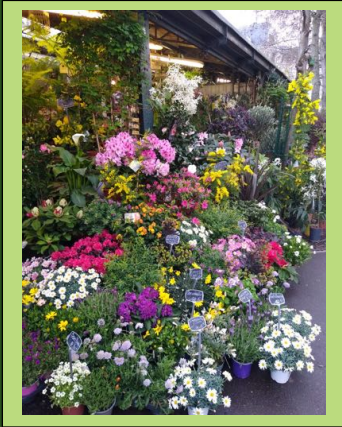
*Date extended to 21.4.25*



Do you know the answer? A. Switch B. Besom C. Poaceae



*This month sees us taking a hop across the Channel to France.....Get a coffee and croissant and browse this Parisian flower market.....such a Spring delight for us all to enjoy..... thank you for sharing x*



**"April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks, 'Go!'"**

We are excited to welcome on board a new supplier: Mires Beck Nursery is located on a 14 acre site at North Cave in East Yorkshire where they provide horticultural therapy, training and a real workplace environment for adults with learning or physical disabilities. They are, in fact, East Yorkshire's biggest provider of day care. They supply garden centres and several National Trust properties across Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Customers for their Yorkshire provenance wildflowers include Wildlife Trusts, Councils and Conservation Bodies nationwide. Trevor and Nathan recently visited and were very impressed, not only by the healthy, sturdy plants but equally by the warm, friendly atmosphere and the obvious delight and pride of all involved in the enterprise. Our first batch of Mires Beck perennials and wildflowers will be arriving this week!



We were looking for quotes about the month of April and the above certainly sums up how we feel here at the Garden Centre. As highlighted in our March update, we've taken deliveries of shrubs, trees, fruit, herbs & vegetables, as well as early alpines & perennials. We have trays of colourful pansies & violas which will gradually give way to Summer bedding, with hanging baskets hot on their heels. Perennials will be pouring in & our range of veg strips will increase, as will our sweet pea selection.

*Enjoy your garden.....from Trevor...Ruth...Nathan & Penny x*