



PREPARE FOR SPRING: THE CCCWP GUIDE

It is almost our favorite time of year... spring! Spring is a time of warm weather, renewal, and a lot of gardening chores. As our gardens awaken from their winter freeze, we too, must get prepared for the growing season with our spring gardening to do list. Let's get started!

Prepare Your Winter Garden

Early spring is a great time to prepare your garden for blooming flowers and fresh vegetables. Start by clearing out any weeds, debris, and mulch. The focus is to remove any alive and growing weeds, or they may come back and try to steal the show from your garden plants. Take time to prune perennials to ground level to make room for new growth and blooms. Prepare your soil by loosening it from the winter freeze. This can be done by turning it or simply using a sharp spade to reach 12 to 14 inches deep. Lastly, get the first of your planting done indoors! Hardy veggies like onions, lettuces, and potatoes are okay to plant during the early weeks of the season.

Eco-Friendly Pest Control

It would be helpful if pesticides were not necessary, but with spring blooms come our not-so-friendly neighbors. When you choose pest control products, choose types that are less risky for people, pets, and the environment. Pesticides linger and traditional yard chemicals enter our storm drain through runoff, traveling untreated to our local creeks. There are eco-friendly options to handle garden pests like insecticidal soap, creating a garlic and water spray, or using apple cider vinegar to tackle ants. When in doubt, peek in your pantry for easy homemade organic pest-control methods that cures the pest problem.

Native Plants

Not the best with caring for plants? No problem! Native plants were made just for you. Native plants are plants that evolved here in California and are a part of the foundation of our natural communities. Consider planting the California native Baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), this plant is rich in pollen and nectar, and will attract beneficial insects and pollinators—like bees and butterflies. Once native plants are established, they have little to no need for chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or other products to thrive. For a guide to native plants in Contra Costa County, check out <https://ourwaterourworld.org/healthy-garden/>

Get prepared for spring with a little work in your garden that will make a big impact in the coming weeks. Learn more ways to make green swaps in your garden at <https://www.cccleanwater.org/community/home-garden.>