

The Lawn and Garden Gazette

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"Fools rush in, where angels fear to tread"...

Yes, Spring has arrived, and this fool is really ready for it. Now I have no illusions we'll get thru this season without an encore appearance from winter, but I'll take the nice weather while it lasts... **So nice in fact** that I gambled a few bucks on some pea seeds. Not much of a downside. For a chance at early peas, that's better odds than lotto... **In fact a lot** of good eats can be planted as we move along into April. Root crops and salad greens can handle a good frost. As can the broccoli/cabbage family... **Later in the month** the cuke and squash members can join the party. If you use walls o'water, even tomatoes, peppers and other less hardy plants can go in. Just be ready, willing and able to cover them if we do get a cold spell... **Those of you considering** power raking better get hustling. The grass is greening by the hour, and will very soon be too late... **The ancient Romans celebrated** a day of merriment (Hilaria) around the vernal equinox. Thru the twists and turns of history it became our April Fools Day. Hey, it's as good a story as any... **One of the better** pranks ever was in 1957. The BBC reported Swiss farmers



were enjoying a bumper crop of spaghetti, accompanied by footage showing it being picked from trees. YES, people called in and asked where they might buy a spaghetti tree... **Not**

to be outdone, NPR announced in 1992 that Richard Nixon was running for President again with the slogan "I didn't do anything wrong, and I won't do it again." No doubt how NPR got on the wrong side of the GOP...

Says here that GE made over 5 billion in profits just in the US, and paid NO US taxes. Oh, wait, that's not another prank. Sad, but true... **Grass getting tall but** no sign of us? If that is the case, please give us call. All lawns start growing at a different times and paces, and it does no one any good to let it get too tall for that first cutting... **Which also means**

that the first time thru or so, we may not be there the same day each week. Not to worry tho, I should have schedules out this time next month... **The buds of roses** will be swelling soon. That's a sign it's time to prune.



First get the dead out. Then take remaining canes back into green just above a healthy outward facing bud. Ideal cut will slope away from the bud at about 45 degrees. For more details google Plantalk Colorado...

Do not criticize someone until you've walked a mile in their shoes. Then you can criticize them because you're a mile away, AND you've got their shoes... **Yes, Babe Ruth still** holds the record for HRs in a 154 game season in my book. Several knew that, but only Mary Pilkington hit it out of the park...

When to rototill? You need to dig down about 6-8 inches, and grab a handful of dirt. If it makes a mud ball, step away from the garden and no one gets hurt. OTOH, if it crumbles easily, no excuses, you're ready to go. Even then watch for mud-balls and stop tilling if you see them... **Crabgrass concerns?**

This is the time to apply Pre-emergent control... **Also a time when** many will be applying systemic products to protect trees and shrubs. Because they are suspected of contributing to the declining bee populations, please check the labels for **clothianidin,**



thiamethoxam or imidacloprid and **do not use on any flowering trees or shrubs...** **Hear about the poor guy** who won an Olympic gold medal? His Dad was so proud that he

went out and had it bronzed... **"Do they still play the blues in Chicago, When baseball season rolls around."** Only on the north side. But who knows this may finally be 'next year... **Closer to home, the Rockies** take the field this week, and the name of the starting pitcher for opening day is all you need to get into this month's drawing... **Play ball!**

In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.

Margaret Atwood