

## **GARDENING NOTES FOR APRIL**

"April showers bring forth May flowers". Although this is a good omen for things to come, do not get caught out as frost is still about and snow is by no means unusual.

New lawns require rolling before cutting with a high blade setting on the mower, while established lawns should be mowed and aerated. A spring fertiliser can then be applied.

Now is the time to prune roses and feed with a rose fertiliser, this needs hoeing into the surface of the soil. A layer of mulching on the flower beds is a great advantage, as it keeps the weeds down and helps to lock moisture in.

Dahlia cuttings can be potted up now into larger pots of between 3 - 4.1/2" Diameter. Also, sweet peas are ready to be planted out, keep two side shoots growing by stopping the main shoot, just in case one should fail. Then when the plant is growing well it can be reduced to one shoot.

Onion sets can still be planted out during April, along with early potatoes and Wrinkle seeded peas (Feltham First) can be sown. Winter cabbage and purple sprouting broccoli can also be sown now in the green house for planting out later.

This is a good time to spring clean house plants, by removing dead leaves and washing dust off the leaves. They also require feeding, along with any cacti which can have their first watering of the year.

Try to keep on top of the weeds, while watching out for "Jack Frost". Remember, good growing weather is on the way.