

Spring Landscaping Tips for Solterra

These are recommendations from the Solterra Landscape Committee for early spring, March to May. They are for normal spring weather and temperatures.

- Solterra Landscape Committee

Aside from our recent cold spells and snowfalls, spring is truly just around the corner, which means it's time to take advantage of any nice warm days to get your yard and landscaping ready to enjoy this summer. We hope the following tips will be helpful.

If you have not yet cut your ornamental grasses back, now is the time. You'll want to do this before new shoots begin to pop up, or you'll be cutting down new foliage. A simple solution to keep grass clippings from flying everywhere, wrap the plant with a heavy-duty tape just above the cut line (about 8 " – 12" from the ground), and then simply lift it off and dispose of it.

For a lawn that will be the envy of your neighborhood, apply *Colorado's Choice Green-Up (or similar all-natural product) in April or the first part of May. Most green-up products contain beads of iron. Be sure to sweep these off of any cement or stone surfaces, as they can leave long-lasting stains.

Herbaceous perennials such as Russian Sage, spirea, yarrow, lupine, and mums, should be cut back to the ground now. Woody shrubs and trees such as lilacs, buckhorn, burning bush, and dogwoods, should be pruned back no more than 1/3. A good rule of thumb to remember, (1) if a shrub or tree blooms in the spring, prune after it blooms; (2) if it blooms in the summer or fall, prune in the spring.

Remove winter wrap from trees. Check for any infestations or disease.

Allow foliage from all bulbs, such as daffodils and tulips, to die back or turn yellow before cutting. The period right after they bloom is when these plants produce food and energy for next year's blooms.

Wait until after Mother's Day, or even Memorial Day to be extra safe, to plant tender vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

Before any new plantings, amend the soil with an all-natural product such as peat moss, *Colorado's Choice BOSS, or other organic soil supplement. This one step can make a huge difference throughout the entire blooming season.

Check the irrigation system for proper operation and times. Make sure your lawn, trees, and other plants are getting adequate water. Be sure you are not over-watering. This not only wastes precious water and your dollars, but it can kill many plants and trees.

Make sure any sump pump drainage, downspouts, or other sources of water, are not creating run-off onto your neighbor's yard or the common areas.

Check with your local nurseries for any other gardening tips or specific questions you might have. They are your best resource for how to grow and maintain a healthy landscape in our unique Solterra growing conditions.

*Colorado's Choice products are not carried by box stores, but rather nurseries such as O'Toole's. Other nurseries carry similar all-natural products.