

Horticultural Points of Interest – April 2015

- **Shrub and Tree Damage from Snow**
 - Broken and Damaged Branches
 - Damage is best pruned away
 - Clean, smooth break will heal quicker and more safely than ragged edge
 - Shrubs typically will grow back and recover fairly quickly
 - Splits
 - In general splits are also best pruned away
 - Trim rough wood smooth and trim away irregular bits of bark
 - Splits can be repaired but when done late may not heal and may become a site for Disease
 - Large Splits on Trees should be Treated by a professional Arborist
 - For small Splits on Shrubs or small Trees bolt or temporarily wire the Split closed
 - Reinforce branch further up to provide relief from force on the Split
 - Watch split carefully
 - If disease sets in or there is no sign of healing both pieces of the Split will have to be pruned away
 - If wire has been used once the Split is knitted together the wire will need to be removed.
- **Spring Bulbs**
 - Deadhead Flowers once they wilt but do not remove Leaves
 - Leaves are needed to store energy for next year's Blooms
 - Bulb-tone (4-10-6) applied when blooming is done will give stronger Blooms next year
 - Deer, Rabbits and Squirrels may eat leaves and flowers of many Bulbs
 - Commercial repellents such as Liquid Fence, Bobbex, DeerOff etc can help
 - Comparison of Pest Resistance of Various Bulbs

Latin Name	Common Name	Often Eaton	Usually not Eaten
Narcissus	Daffodil, jonquil, Narcissus		X
Tulip	Tulip	X	
Crocus, Species	Crocus		X
Crocus	Crocus	X	
Muscari	Grape Hyacinth		X
Hyacinths	Hyacinths	X	
Scilla	Scilla		X
Eranthis	Winter Aconite		X
Galanthus	Snow Drops		X
Puschinia	Stripped Squill	X	
Allium	Ornamental Onion		X
Camassia	Quamash	X	
Leucojum	Spring/Summer Snowflake		X
Fritillaria	Fritillaria		X
Chionodoxa	Glory of the Snow	X	
Ipheion	Star Flower		X
Cyclamen	Perennial Cyclamen		X

- **Spray for Winter Moths on Trees, Shrubs and Perennials**
 - With cool spring Temperatures may be able to kill eggs on stems and trunks with Horticultural Oil
 - Safe and effective
 - Caterpillars start off on Trees but quickly Infest Shrubs & Perennials by “Ballooning” (hang by web in wind)
 - Caterpillars eat into buds early on and destroy them from the inside
 - Bacillus Thuringiensis Kurstaki good for young Caterpillars (Only) and safe
 - Spinosad good for Larger Caterpillars
 - Relatively low Human Toxicity
 - Avoid contact of wet spray with Bees
 - Once dry very effective if eaten but not very toxic to insects otherwise
- **Perennial Maintenance**
 - Stems left on over the winter can be removed now
 - Buddleia and Caryopteris are likely to have suffered severe branch breakage due to snow. Wait for new growth to start before trimming back
 - For Evergreen Perennials like Hellebores remove Weather beaten leaves to provide Light and Air for New Growth
 - Bear’s Paw Hellebores should not be trimmed back since they form their flower stems in the fall
 - Can apply Slow Release Fertilizer as soon as Growth Starts and work into Ground around Perennials
- **Dividing Perennials**
 - When to Divide
 - Early spring blooming perennials in the Fall; Summer and Fall blooming perennials in the Spring
 - Many can be divided as long as temperatures are not excessively Hot
 - Bulbs and Corms
 - Best to divide when dormant
 - Remove small Bulblets offset around the main Bulb
 - Replant main Bulb and individual Bulblets
 - Fibrous Rooted
 - Break or cut apart root clump so that there is at least one stem for each section of root and replant
 - Rhizome
 - Usually spreading root growing horizontally just under the soil
 - Cut apart so that each section has 1 or 2 growing points (eyes, if dormant, or stems) and Replant
 - Tuberos Rooted are Treated the same way
 - Tap Root
 - Typically resent any effort at division and often die
 - Propagate by seeds or cuttings
 - Exceptions
 - Some plants resent division and fare poorly or die after division
 - Corsican and Bear’s Paw Hellebores, Acanthus, Baptisia, Peonies and a few other
 - Propagate by seeds or cuttings as appropriate

