

SPRING

Spring Thoughts By CPVGC Member & Master Gardener Jan Behler

Although March is still too early for much gardening,
give these ideas some spring thoughts!

- 1.) If you haven't been winter watering your trees and lawn, now would be an excellent time to give them a much needed drink. Small virtually-impossible-to-see mites can eat drought stressed turf during a dry winter. Any area with a south or west facing exposure is vulnerable.
- 2.) In preparation for spring check your sprinkler system. According to Dr. Tony Koski, CSU turf specialist, 95% of all lawn problems come from cultural sources- in other words how we water, mow, apply weed killers, etc. Be sure that your sprinkler heads are set high enough and that you are getting full sprinkler coverage and are not missing spots that later show up as brown areas.
- 3.) Easter lilies are sold as potted plants ready to bloom March to mid-April. Once the flowers have faded, the plant is most often discarded. But, it can be removed from the pot and the bulb planted in a well-drained soil outside. Leave the green leaves on the bulb. The bulb should be fertilized monthly and well mulched during the winter. The lily should then bloom again the next summer.
- 4.) After tulips and daffodils bloom consider planting pansies where the yellowing foliage starts to occur. Don't cut back the foliage on spring bulbs after they bloom because this is how the bulb stores food reserves for the next season.
- 5.) By the middle of April you can probably remove mulch from your rose bushes, depending on the weather. Prune climbers and ramblers to remove any winter damage just as the leaf buds are beginning to enlarge in April. The general rule for roses is to prune no earlier than the 3rd week in April.

