

# THE GARDEN YEAR



APRIL 2025

The Garden Year is a monthly publication of the Marshall Area Garden Club, Inc (MAGCI), whose objectives are to stimulate the love of gardening, encourage home and community beautification, promote better horticultural practices and encourage all forms of conservation. This month's author(s): Judy Milton

## April Garden Calendar

April 8 City of Marshall composting facility opens for season. Tue 4-7, Fri & Sat 9-3

April 15 MAGCI meeting presentation "The Life of the Honeybee & Beekeeper", 7:00 pm, Marshall United Methodist Church

April 22 Earth Day

April 26 MACC community tree planting day (seeking volunteers)

Place ring supports for peonies when they emerge. Fertilize grass. Divide perennials. Compost/manure perennials when they emerge. Prune ornamental grasses when new growth starts. Plant summer-flowering bulbs. Cut off perennial flower stalks. Plant trees & shrubs.

Mid: Start seeds indoors for tomato, eggplant, pepper.

Late: Direct sow chive, dill, peas, spinach, leaf lettuce, onion. Harden off/set out broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower seedlings.

NOTE: Planting dates in the Garden Calendar are based on the following: Average last spring frost date for Marshall May 19-24. Average first fall frost date for Marshall September 24. Planting charts found in [The All New Square Foot Gardening](#) by Mel Bartholomew.

## This Month:

Food Security: Every single bite you take comes originally from soil, water and air. Our nation's most precious resources are topsoil, clean water and clean air; they are essential to human life. Where does our food come from? The majority is produced by a small number of large agribusiness corporations. They tend to promote large-scale monoculture with maximum output at minimal cost and do not have a great track record on responsible stewardship of our precious topsoil, water and air. They also wield enormous economic power and influence on government oversight. If you want to know more about this topic you can do an internet search

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on Big Ag or read Wendell Berry's book [The Art of the Commonplace](#), available at Marshall District Library. The farmers that supply agribusiness face many economic challenges relating to large-scale hybrid crops and the equipment, fertilizers and pesticides needed to produce them. Small independent farmers who choose other uses for their land are minor contributors to our food supply. But having few sources for food is precarious. Blips in the food supply (bird flu, recalls due to meat and produce contamination, covid supply chain disruption) are wake up calls. How can we increase our food security? More and diverse sources for our food. Here are two ways you can contribute:

1. Support Local Farms. Marshall is blessed to have a farmers market, nearby farm stands, CSAs (Community-Supported Agriculture, an arrangement where you pay the farmer up front to receive a regular supply of farm products) and small farms. To the extent we can, let's support them and keep these crucial alternate food providers going. For info on regional farms that you can buy direct from see [LocalHarvest.org](http://LocalHarvest.org).
2. Grow Your Own. As recently as two generations ago, it was common practice for families to have a backyard vegetable plot and to preserve home-grown produce to feed the family in winter. Remember Victory Gardens? Brought about to prevent wartime food shortages. The covid lockdowns produced a resurgence in home vegetable plots. Growing your own food provides a stable food supply controlled by you, the gardener. Growing enough to feed your family all year is pretty ambitious, but whatever you grow yourself is fresher and somehow more satisfying. To quote my husband: "There are two things in life that money can't buy – a good woman's love and them home-grown tomatoes." Maybe it's time to start your own Victory Garden and increase your food security, even a little.

Feature Plant - Easter Lily: Easter falls on April 20 this year and many of us find ourselves with potted Easter lilies. These are often two to three year old plants and it seems a shame to just trash them when they finish blooming. No need! According to Thalassa Cruso's book [Making Things Grow Outdoors](#), keep it alive indoors in a cool, sunless window until the weather warms up, then plant it outside. Lilies like morning sun and rich, free-draining soil. Plant so the bottom of the bulb is three times as deep as the bulb size. Mark the location with a stake (unless you will remember the location and not accidentally dig it up). Lilies look best in clumps with something in front to hide the fading leaves after bloom. If it survives, it won't bloom at Easter – it's a summer-flowering bulb. May as well give it a chance rather than certain death.

**Next Month:** The ABCs of Crop Rotation, Cherries in Snow, Planting Trees & Shrubs

**FEEDBACK:** Comments? Suggestions? Would you like to receive "The Garden Year" monthly by email? Email us at [marshallareagardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:marshallareagardenclub@gmail.com) Subject "The Garden Year".