



# THE APRIL GARDEN

Now we are well and truly into spring, April is perhaps the most exciting month of the year. The garden suddenly begins to look green and vibrant and the warmer days and lighter evenings help to gladden the heart of every gardener. You can begin to prune early-flowering shrubs now and start dividing perennials. Regular weeding and deadheading will keep your garden in trim.

## THINGS TO DO

**Provide** protection for newly planted trees and shrubs in cold, exposed positions.

**Continue** watering newly planted trees and shrubs.

**Plant** evergreen trees and shrubs.

**Tie** in the new shoots of climbers.

**Prune** early-flowering shrubs as well as those grown for large or colourful foliage.

**Give** grey-leaved shrubs a trim to keep them bushy.

**Spray** roses against black spot.

**Divide** perennials, and stake tall-growing ones.

**Pot** up or transplant self-sown seedlings.

**Sow** annual climbers and grasses.

**Deadhead** your daffodils.

**Keep** hoeing to suppress weeds, but always dig perennial weeds right out.

**The days are lengthening** The soil is warming up and apple blossom (Braeburn is shown here) is now at its very best.

**Sow** or lay turf for new lawns, and feed established lawns.

**Sow** greenhouse crops such as tomatoes and continue sowing and planting vegetables outdoors.

**Prick** out or pot up seedlings before they get congested and grow leggy.

## LAST CHANCE

**Cut** down any dead growth of perennials if you have not already.

**Plant** summer-flowering bulbs and sow sweet peas.

## GET AHEAD

**Prepare** trenches for runner beans.

**Plant** up hanging baskets if you have space under cover to shelter them for a few more weeks.

