

Spring's Relentless Fury

Garden Spot

By **Derek Thomas** - April 17, 2017



Some plants can take a snowfall and rebound without much damage.

Planning and Planting Around a Finicky Season

Spring for all of its beauty and wondrous renewal can grow at accelerated rates to please this finicky season no guarantee of success for their efforts. Spring take fragile – part selection of the fittest, part only the strength Nature's twisted sense of humor.

Spring can stimulate us into a planting frenzy or disaster frost-killed tender shoots, and daffodils that are beat continue to plant our tender veggies, young perennials the ficklest season of them all. Got to love those Gre

Perhaps this is where we gardeners get our stubborn side. Or we, like the very season, are inspired

A Strategy for Spring Planting Success

How do we plan a balcony vegetable garden, a new border bed, or the installation of a specimen may be working against us? Do we need to plan for more than just the season? Will foresight or all planting is the answer.

1. If you want to succeed with your lettuces and kale and are being rigid about planting times, love, and the reward of delicious homegrown leaf veggies can be an arduous task with many cooler than normal and your cool-season veggie seeds were not started indoors, then turn to done the work of seed planting, transplanting, and then acclimating the plants to our climate since your cool-season veggies can have a second go-around in fall. Keep in mind the number season veggies and don't become discouraged if you have to get the plants this spring instead care for the veggies, and your harvest will be just as delicious.
If you want to get a jump on the fall seed planting, start saving cardboard egg cartons. Fill the seeds and place the carton on a sunny windowsill in late August. You will have your own plants in September. If this works, keep it in mind for next spring.
2. If you are planning an ornamental garden and have not planned for the volatility of spring, do disenchanted when the perfect weekend, with perfect temperatures, spent planting the perfect in weeks, freezing out all your plantings. When shopping for plants for the new garden, ask to few nights acclimating. If the weather has a sudden temperature spike, resist the urge to rush. Take the time to use the first really nice spring days for prepping the soil, planning the layout and admiring the neighborhood gardens to gain inspiration.
It may be better to use the first good days of the season taking a trip to the garden center to and fine-tuning the plans for the new garden. April and May are great planting months. Take to replant in early spring due to a late freeze.
3. What if your spring project is something larger, like planting a tree? April and May are perfect spring is too cold or too dry or too wet there is no need to rush it, because fall is just as good. greatest mistakes are made in rushing into planting a tree. Do some research.
Our gardens on Capitol Hill are for the most part challenging spatially. Planting a white oak in Although you may enjoy the tree in its juvenile stages, you are most likely leaving a legacy of beautiful leaves and is an attractive tree but has no place in a small back yard. Upon maturity dogwood or flowering cherry is a much better choice for the urban back yard garden. Taking April or early May can help you not be upset by a late killing frost. Our frost-free date in this memo.

A Look Forward

This spring I am reminded of how unpredictable the weather can be. As I pen this column the v forecast offers more cold ahead this evening. We are having a spring this year with brown magi

and daffodils that look like they were dropped after a hurricane whipped them around a bit. Our flowers are now frozen and will not bloom. Anyone who took a chance and planted anything out in late February spawned a monster.



The banner features an image of various paint cans on the left. The main text reads: "Free Paint Recycling Event at DC Armory" in green, with "Recycling" in a script font. Below this, it says "Saturday, November 18, 9 am - 1 pm" in orange. To the right is a green button with "More Details" in white. The PaintCare logo is on the far right.

We will soon forget all this – in fact we must forget all this. I sit here closing this column, and am dreaming of the flowers that have yet to bloom and the seasons yet to come. We gardeners are sowing seeds, plan better border gardens, and install beautiful specimen trees, flowers, and shrubs before they become voracious with our desire to grow and have beauty around us. Enjoy!

Derek Thomas "The Garden Guy," principal of Thomas Landscapes, is an accomplished garden designer featured on HGTV's "Curb Appeal" and the DIY Network. View his garden segments on YouTube. He has worked in Washington, DC, and is a contributor to the Smithsonian's garden programs. He can be reached at 202-544-5182. You can find and friend us on Facebook at Facebook/Thomas Landscapes. Follow us on Twitter for garden tips.