



SPRING



Spring marks the beginning of a farmer's busy year, when outdoor activity commences. For most growers, it is truly the most glorious season for a single reason—it's the end of winter. Eager gardeners revel in those first warm and sunny days, but winter doesn't release its grasp easily; wet, cold, and stormy days still lie ahead. The savvy hobby farmer must watch the forecasts, plan wisely, and not be fooled into premature planting.

The flurry of early garden activity includes weeding, bed preparation, and when the time is right, planting. Before long, we're harvesting the first fresh herbs and vegetables of the year: asparagus, lettuce greens, radishes, the tiny sweet fruits of strawberry plants, and the meaty stalks of rhubarb. The hobby farm kitchen is also revitalized as the heavy, starchy winter fare gives way to herb-laced spring salads, fresh lamb shanks, and rhubarb cobbler.