

By Susan Brackney, *Hobby Farm Home* contributing editor and passionate gardener



- Special order potato and onion sets as well as sweet potato slips so you'll get them in time to plant after your last average frost date.
- Haven't tested your soil lately? Bring core samples to your local farm co-op or extension agent to make sure pH and nutrient levels are where they should be.
- Redefine planting bed edges with a trowel or edger. In perennial gardens, gently rake out the top 2 inches of old mulch, add 1 inch of fresh compost, and then top with new mulch.
- Start seeds of cool-weather transplants like broccoli and cabbage, as well as any annual bedding plants for your use or for sale.
- So they'll be ready when you are, sharpen lawnmower blades and tune up the rototiller and other heavy equipment.
- Check your cold frames, make necessary repairs, and build extras as needed.
- Examine garden and soaker hoses for cracks. Check in-ground irrigation system drippers for clogs.
- Pick up large limbs, and lightly prune weather-injured trees and shrubs.
- Top-dress hardy bulbs with a mild, phosphorus-rich fertilizer.
- Re-acclimate your houseplants to the outdoors. Repot any plants that look top-heavy or those with roots peeking out of drainage holes.

SPRING