

## Horticultural Points of Interest – April 2015

- **Shrub and Tree Damage from Snow**
  - Broken and Damaged Branches
    - Damage is best pruned away
      - Clean, smooth break will heal quicker and more safely than ragged edge
      - Shrubs typically will grow back and recover fairly quickly
  - Splits
    - In general splits are also best pruned away
      - Trim rough wood smooth and trim away irregular bits of bark
    - Splits can be repaired but when done late may not heal and may become a site for Disease
      - Large Splits on Trees should be Treated by a professional Arborist
      - For small Splits on Shrubs or small Trees bolt or temporarily wire the Split closed
        - Reinforce branch further up to provide relief from force on the Split
        - Watch split carefully
          - If disease sets in or there is no sign of healing both pieces of the Split will have to be pruned away
          - If wire has been used once the Split is knitted together the wire will need to be removed.
- **Spring Bulbs**
  - Deadhead Flowers once they wilt but do not remove Leaves
    - Leaves are needed to store energy for next year's Blooms
  - Bulb-tone (4-10-6) applied when blooming is done will give stronger Blooms next year
  - Deer, Rabbits and Squirrels may eat leaves and flowers of many Bulbs
    - Commerical repellents such as Liquid Fence, Bobbex, DeerOff etc can help
    - Comparison of Pest Resistance of Various Bulbs

Latin Name	Common Name	Often Eaton	Usually not Eaten
Narcissus	Daffodil, jonquil, Narcissus		X
Tulip	Tulip	X	
Crocus, Species	Crocus		X
Crocus	Crocus	X	
Muscari	Grape Hyacinth		X
Hyacinths	Hyacinths	X	
Scilla	Scilla		X
Eranthis	Winter Aconite		X
Galanthus	Snow Drops		X
Puschinia	Stripped Squill	X	
Allium	Ornamental Onion		X
Camassia	Quamash	X	
Leucojum	Spring/Summer Snowflake		X
Fritillaria	Fritillaria		X
Chionodoxa	Glory of the Snow	X	
Ipheion	Star Flower		X
Cyclamen	Perennial Cyclamen		X

- **Spray for Winter Moths on Trees, Shrubs and Perennials**
  - With cool spring Temperatures may be able to kill eggs on stems and trunks with Horticultural Oil
    - Safe and effective
  - Caterpillars start off on Trees but quickly Infest Shrubs & Perennials by “Ballooning” (hang by web in wind)
  - Caterpillars eat into buds early on and destroy them from the inside
  - Bacillus Thuringiensis Kurstaki good for young Caterpillars (Only) and safe
  - Spinosad good for Larger Caterpillars
    - Relatively low Human Toxicity
    - Avoid contact of wet spray with Bees
    - Once dry very effective if eaten but not very toxic to insects otherwise
- **Perennial Maintenance**
  - Stems left on over the winter can be removed now
    - Buddleia and Caryopteris are likely to have suffered severe branch breakage due to snow. Wait for new growth to start before trimming back
  - For Evergreen Perennials like Hellebores remove Weather beaten leaves to provide Light and Air for New Growth
    - Bear’s Paw Hellebores should not be trimmed back since they form their flower stems in the fall
  - Can apply Slow Release Fertilizer as soon as Growth Starts and work into Ground around Perennials
- **Dividing Perennials**
  - When to Divide
    - Early spring blooming perennials in the Fall; Summer and Fall blooming perennials in the Spring
    - Many can be divided as long as temperatures are not excessively Hot
  - Bulbs and Corms
    - Best to divide when dormant
    - Remove small Bulblets offset around the main Bulb
    - Replant main Bulb and individual Bulblets
  - Fibrous Rooted
    - Break or cut apart root clump so that there is at least one stem for each section of root and replant
  - Rhizome
    - Usually spreading root growing horizontally just under the soil
    - Cut apart so that each section has 1 or 2 growing points (eyes, if dormant, or stems) and Replant
    - Tuberous Rooted are Treated the same way
  - Tap Root
    - Typically resent any effort at division and often die
    - Propagate by seeds or cuttings
  - Exceptions
    - Some plants resent division and fare poorly or die after division
      - Corsican and Bear’s Paw Hellebores, Acanthus, Baptisia, Peonies and a few other
      - Propagate by seeds or cuttings as appropriate

