

## 5 WAYS TO KICK OFF THE GARDENING SEASON IN SPRING

Prune summer-flowering shrubs, including blue spirea, summersweet and rose of Sharon, to encourage bushy growth and masses of nectar-laden blooms.

Inspect the trees and shrubs in your yard for overwintering pests. Removing egg masses of eastern tent caterpillars, gypsy moths and other voracious insects can greatly reduce plant damage without the use of chemicals—a major goal for any wildlife gardener.

Remove and compost plant debris that stayed in the garden over winter. The birds have likely picked the seed heads clean.

Prepare the soil and plant annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs that will attract wildlife. Include those that offer food as well as shelter.

Scour garden centers for plants birds, butterflies and bees love.



# COLOR BURST™ LANDSCAPES



PARTNERING WITH YOU TO PROTECT  
YOUR LANDSCAPE INVESTMENT...  
GUARANTEED



With the warmer weather, we naturally want new plants. However, the average last freeze in Nashville is April 18th. In 2011, it was on May 6th. The moon cycle affects the timing of a freeze more so than the calendar. This is why Passover and Easter are on a moon cycle.



245 Wilson Pike Circle  
Brentwood, TN 37027  
(615) 373-0722  
[www.ColorBurstLandscapes.com](http://www.ColorBurstLandscapes.com)  
Charter # 795 and 4737

## 8 Early-Blooming Flowers for Spring

Get the jump on the growing season this year with these pretty perennials that are the first to pop up in spring. Because these flowers are the first to unfurl each year, they're often past their prime by early summer. Plant other late-blooming perennials nearby so that your garden is alive with colorful petals later in the year.

### 1. Hellebore

Hellebore's cup-shaped blossoms are a welcome sight after a long winter. The white or cream-colored blooms appear as early as February or March, and then turn rose-purple with time. Plant groups of hellebores under backyard trees or shrubs—they thrive in and appreciate the shade.

### 2. Rock cress

Nestle rock cress in a sunny spot within a rock garden and dainty white blooms will cascade and spread up to 2 feet. It tolerates drought conditions. Give this short-and-sweet ground cover a haircut after it has finished blooming so it looks tidy for the rest of the growing season.

### 3. Candytuft

Just like its name, this plant is a real treat! Get ready for a carpet of pure white or pink blooms, perfect for borders, rock gardens or containers. Candytuft grows best in full sun and well-drained soil.

### 4. Spring Beauty

Come April, white flowers with light or dark pink stripes on 6-inch stems pop up in woodlands. In your yard, grow this pretty perennial in rock gardens or in meadows.

### 5. Bloodroot

Bloodroot, a native wildflower, thrives in moist woodlands. This white bloom gets its name from the red liquid that oozes out of the root when it's cut. In the garden, plant bloodroot in a space where it can naturalize. Pay attention, though! The 2-inch bright white blooms last for only a few days.

### 6. Creeping phlox

Creeping phlox is a smaller, low-growing hearty relative of the familiar fragrant perennial. When the creeping variety bursts into bloom in March, it forms a cascading spread of little flowers, making it a lovely choice for rock gardens, slopes and flower bed borders. Grow it in full sun and trim back after it blooms.

### 7. Marsh Marigold

Marsh marigold thrives in wet, swampy areas, such as the edge of a pond or water garden. Despite its name, it's not related to marigolds at all. It's a member of the buttercup family, which makes sense when you catch a glimpse of the shiny, buttery-yellow flowers.

### 8. Bleeding Heart

Delicate foliage and long-lasting heart-shaped blooms make this an early spring favorite. Because it peaks before other plants, grow bleeding heart in the back of a garden bed, so other plants cover the foliage that has died back.

