# MONTHLY GARDEN CHORES—APRIL

This winter’s heavy rains kept gardeners indoors. Now that the weather is warming up there’s plenty to do in our gardens:

GENERAL CHORES

* Prevent [ants](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7411.html) from getting into fruit trees where they protect pests. Use Tanglefoot barriers on tree trunks.
* Remove [weeds](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7441.html) now before they flower and produce seed heads. Pick weeds by hand in planted areas; use a hoe in open areas.
* Control [slugs and snails](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7427.html) by handpicking and disposing or using bait.
* Control [aphids](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7404.html) on tender new growth by spraying them with a strong stream of water or stripping them off by hand.
* Protect developing pears and apples from codling moths by removing and destroying infested fruit and clearing leaf debris beneath trees.
* Avoid overhead watering of plants to prevent [rust](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7463.html). Rake up, remove and discard any infected leaves.
* Divide cymbidiums.
* Deadhead bulbs after they’ve bloomed but leave foliage until entirely brown.
* Control [gophers](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7433.html) by trapping.

FERTILIZING

* Feed citrus with a nitrogen fertilizer.
* Feed hydrangeas with aluminum sulfate to turn them blue.
* Feed bearded iris with a low nitrogen, high phosphorous and high potassium mix to encourage blooms.
* Feed grass lawns after they turn uniformly green.
* Feed bulbs after they bloom with a complete fertilizer to give them a jump-start for next year.

PLANTING

* Plant summer annuals when spring annuals die off. In sunny areas, plant ageratum, dianthus, marigolds, nasturtiums, nicotiana and zinnias. In shady areas, plant bedding begonias, caladium, coleus, impatiens and lobelia.
* Plant a final crop of cool season vegetables, such as carrots, lettuce, snow peas, radishes and spinach
* Begin seedlings for tomatoes, eggplant and peppers.
* Plant subtropicals, such as bougainvillea, gardenia and hibiscus, as well as avocado and citrus.

REFERENCES:

ANTS—<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7411.html>

APHIDS—<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7404.html>

CODLING MOTHS—<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7412.html>

GOPHERS—<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7433.html>

RUST—<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7463.html>

SNAILS AND SLUGS—<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7427.html>

WEEDS—<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7441.html>