

## WHAT ARE OUR STAR GARDENERS DOING IN APRIL?



### Paul Sisko:

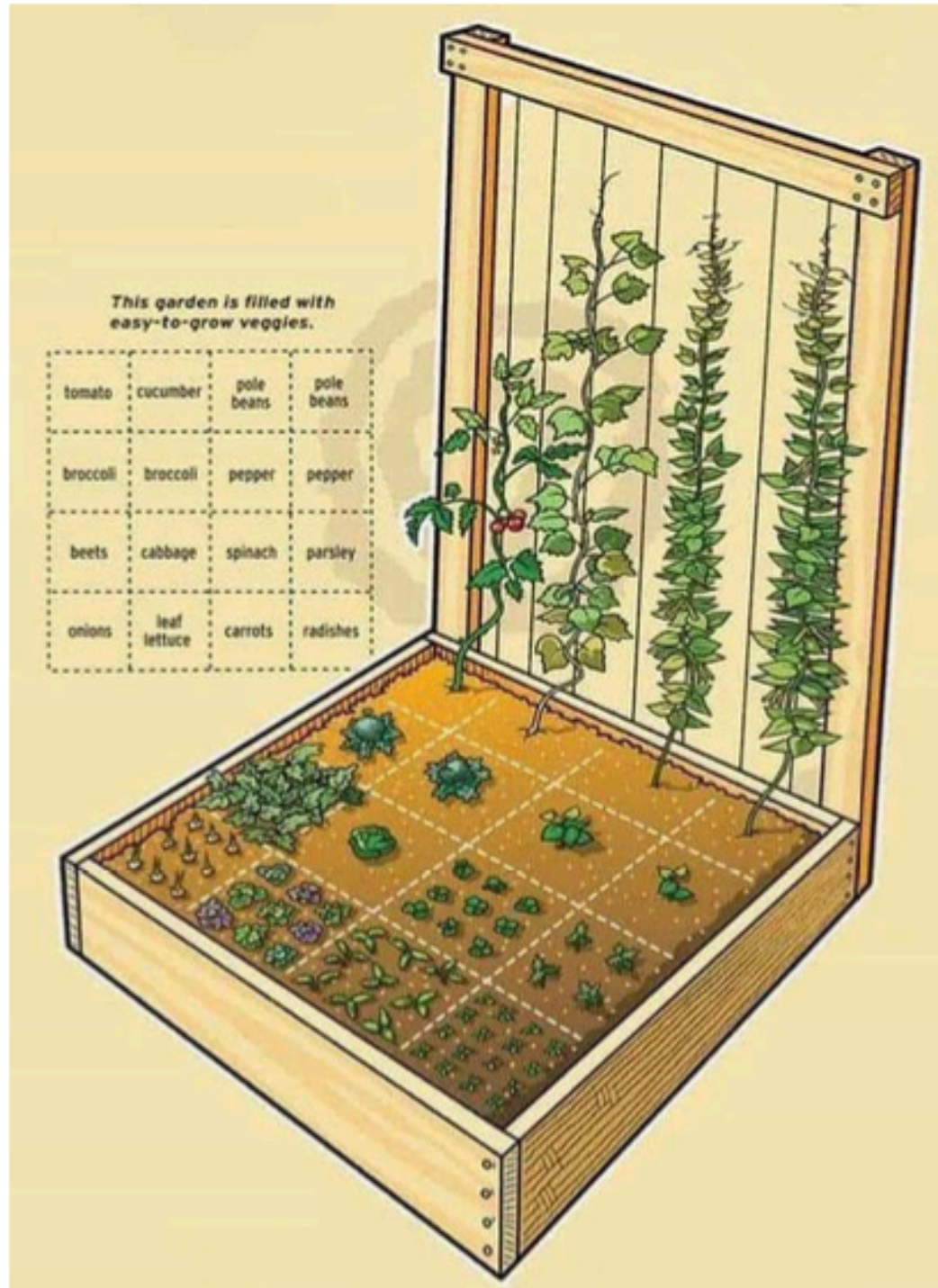
- Sharp Tools. If you haven't cleaned and sharpened your garden tools yet this is the time to do it. If you don't know how, make a date with me to sharpen your pruners and loppers and I'll help you with the task. Clean up the entire tool shed. I'm not helping with that.
- Add fresh batteries to your watering timers if you use them.
- Prune shrubs that require either late fall or early spring to rejuvenate or shape them.
- Order soil test kits from the Bergen County Extension Service and have your soil tested for specific plant areas. That is veggies, flowers, grass, etc.
- Clean up debris from the garden and do a light cultivation. Do not go too deep so as not to dig up any new weed seeds.
- Check hoses for cracks and or leaks. Repair or purchase a new one. I suggest the Zero G. It never kinks or gets hard from age. Available online or at Lowes.
- If starting seeds for cool weather crops, prepare the area soil and make / purchase trellises if necessary.
- Enjoy the exercise that gardening brings. Don't forget to stretch out first.

### Marina Kunkera:

- I think April is my busiest month in my garden. Besides all the weeding, seeding, trimming, cleaning and mulching, this year I am doing a lot of dividing and transplanting of snowdrops, primroses, Tete-a-tete daffodils, and hostas. Spreading the goodness around. I also have a new project.... I call it the Winter Garden.
- After putting my design on paper, it was time to carefully stake-out the area of exactly where each plant goes. It is comprised of dwarf conifers and helleborus.
- To be precise, 38 dwarf conifers and 27 hellebores. I've been collecting the hellebores since Thanksgiving, and the dwarf conifers are in order. 😊 I hope it will all be ready for our year-end cocktail party and you come to see it.



**Sharon Ma:** Here is a diagram showing how to grow your vegetables in a small space. Put lower plants in the front row and taller plants in the back to get the most sunlight.



Planting clover in your lawn will benefit the environment in so many ways:

- It draws nitrogen from the air into the soil to feed the grass, so to cut down fertilization.
- Bees love clover blooms.
- Rabbits love it too and they go after the clovers in the lawn and eat less of my flowering plants.
- It fills the difficult bare spots in the lawn better than grass seeds.
- Great for a natural lawn! No chemicals used in the lawn, means no pesticide, herbicide and fertilizers are needed.

### 9 Reasons to Plant a Clover Lawn

- It's drought-resistant
- It's inexpensive
- It requires no fertilization
- Clover blooms!
- It resists blight + mildew
- It doesn't need herbicides or pesticides
- It grows in poor soil
- It's unaffected by pet urine
- It rarely needs to be mowed

**Treehugger**

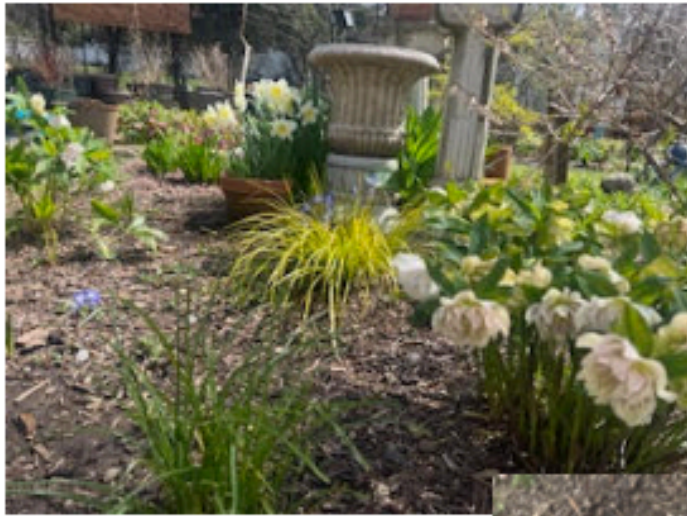
The more diversity in your garden and less lawn area will bring in more life to your garden.

Try to cut down the size of the lawn and convert it into a garden.



**Janet Schultz:**

Sharing some of my blooms from my garden.



I took this picture of the intriguing cactus display in the Sibley Garden in Florida.



One more important advice: Keep your tetanus shot up-to-date. Happy Gardening!!!

