

UNL Extension: Acreage Insights

Acreage eNews-April 2013

<http://acreage.unl.edu>

In The Spring Garden...

By [Nicole Stoner](#), UNL Extension Horticulture Educator

Spring is officially here! There are many things we can do now that it is spring, but don't do too much too early. We can still have some cold weather, so we need to be careful not to do damage to our plants by pruning or planting too early.

Vegetable & Flower Gardens

If you don't plant any new seeds this year, you can apply Preen once it warms up a little more, to reduce the weeds that might come up from seed in your garden. If you plan to plant anything from seeds, wait until those seeds germinate before applying a preemergent, otherwise you will stop the germination of your desired plants.

If you have any weeds already greening up in your garden, you can pull them out or do a spot spray with a product containing glyphosate, such as Roundup. Be very careful not to spray your desired plants; you can damage or even kill them with the glyphosate.



After taking care of the weeds a new layer of mulch should be applied to help control weeds throughout the year, and to help hold moisture into the soil. Mulch should only be applied 2-3 inches deep during the spring and summer. The best mulch choice for a landscape are shredded hardwood, wood chips, or bark chips. Inorganic mulches, such as river rock or mulched tires, are not appropriate for a vegetable or flower garden.

They're Back!

We are also beginning to see insects emerging from overwinter in, or around, our homes. Boxelder bugs, or Democrats as some people call them, are starting to be noticed in our homes again. These insects do not bite us, do not spread diseases, and do not reproduce in our homes.

You might also see Asian multicolored ladybeetles. Vacuum them up, squash them, or release them outside. Spraying around your foundation a few times a year with the indoor/outdoor barrier spray should reduce the population of these insects in your home next fall and spring.