



*In these troubled times,  
my garden remains a sanctuary.*

~ Irene

## APRIL 2020: In the Garden with Irene Virag

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> Weather Watch: If it thunders on All Fool's Day, expect good crops of corn and hay.	<b>2</b> As Emerson said: "The earth laughs in flowers." So plant pansies and primroses.	<b>3</b> Test your soil's pH to make sure your plants will get the proper nutrients they need.	<b>4</b> Squeeze a handful of soil. If it sticks together, wait to plant. If it crumbles, you can get to work.
<b>5</b> Start tomato seeds indoors. They need 6 to 8 weeks under lights before they go outside.	<b>6</b> Start peppers and eggplants indoors, too. Can't you taste the ratatouille already?	<b>7</b> Harden off seedlings of broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage before they go outside.	<b>8</b> Passover begins at sundown. Grow your own horseradish. Put crowns 4 inches below the soil.	<b>9</b> Sow a bowl full of salad greens: Endive, arugula, leaf lettuce, spinach, and Swiss chard.	<b>10</b> Stake peonies before they flop over. They may not flower long, but while they do, peonies rule.	<b>11</b> Get cannas, dahlias and tuberous begonias growing in pots indoors.
<b>12</b> Happy Easter. Keep Easter lilies going in a sunny spot indoors. Don't overwater.	<b>13</b> Last call for seeding bare spots in the lawn -- as long as its not muddy.	<b>14</b> Cut back the tawny blades of ornamental grasses so new growth can have its day.	<b>15</b> Put off your taxes – but do not wait to sow your peas or summer's heat will cook them.	<b>16</b> Plant strawberry fields. Ever-bearing varieties fruit in June and August. Mulch with straw.	<b>17</b> Add chives to the herb garden – or divide and replant what you have – to bloom in May.	<b>18</b> Prune roses, making cuts at a 45-degree angle just above a fat bud. Plant bare root roses.
<b>19</b> Sow seeds of squash, melon and cucumbers for planting out in the garden in May.	<b>20</b> Celebrate Earth Day. Tread lightly on our beleaguered planet. It's time to go organic.	<b>21</b> Sow seeds of cornflowers, California poppies, zinnias, larkspur and alyssum.	<b>22</b> Mark the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of <a href="#">Earth Day</a> . Say a silent prayer for the planet and its people.	<b>23</b> Prime time for perennials: <a href="#">Click</a> for plant of the year – <i>Aralia cordata</i> 'Sun King.'	<b>24</b> Celebrate Arbor Day. <a href="#">Click here</a> to find out if your hometown is a "Tree City USA."	<b>25</b> Repot and fertilize houseplants so they're ready to move to the patio next month.
<b>26</b> Plant radishes every 10 days for a steady supply into July. Try colorful Easter Egg mix.	<b>27</b> Direct sow carrots, beets and kale. I love Redbor kale – it's edible and ornamental.	<b>28</b> Gather daffodils while ye may. Put stems in tepid water for an hour, then in their own vase.	<b>29</b> Put in potatoes, kohlrabi, leeks, onions, turnips, rutabaga, parsnips, and asparagus.	<b>30</b> Power up the mower and start cutting when the grass is about 3 inches high.		Drop me a line: Email: <a href="mailto:irenevirag@verizon.net">irenevirag@verizon.net</a>  1019 Ft Salonga Rd. Suite 10 – # 302 Northport, NY 11768