



Getting Ready for Spring the Right Way

By Sarah Schaffner, Horticulture Manager, Cave Hill Cemetery

Spring is here! Everywhere you turn, the dormancy of winter is fading away. Flowers and trees alike are well on their way to creating radiant pallets of color.

For many, these glimpses of early Spring create a rush to get in the garden. But, don't go too fast. You could be doing more harm than you realize. After all, there is a right way and wrong way to do spring clean-up.

During the winter months, many insects call your garden home. Unraked leaves and small piles of sticks are the perfect home for many insects and pollinators, like native bees and garden-friendly insects, such as lacewings and syrphid flies. Rushing out too soon to the garden can quickly reduce their numbers and disrupt the possibility of a plentiful garden in the later spring months. Some experts suggest to wait until the daytime temperature is above 50 degrees consistently for at least 7 consecutive days before contemplating working in the garden. This gives just a little more time for those hiding in the debris to emerge and find the perfect new home.

Here are some other good tips to keep in mind as you work this Spring:

- Cut, bundle and tie debris loosely and in small quantities
- Do a careful leaf clean-up (Be gentle)
- Don't mulch...yet (Wait at least a month or so after the first day of Spring)
- Prune with keen eyes (Look for chrysalis and cocoons)

Source: Savvy Gardening: Cultivating Curiosity & Confidence