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Tip of the Week



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Think spring and early veggies!

Die-hard gardeners know that even when there's snow flying in February, now is the time to get a jump on the growing season. Soon it will be time to plant cool season veggies and wildflowers and in order to plant, you need seeds!

The best deals and variety for seeds are found early.

Get to the local garden center or order seed catalogs. If you want the most variety of choices and specialty items, catalogs might be your best bet. Well-known mail order companies include Burpee, Jung, Johnny's, Park Seed Co. and Gurney's Seed. Locally, there's a wide variety of seed available from Rocky Mountain Seed Company and for wildflowers, try Applewood Seed.

Plant seeds for cool season veggies as soon as you can rototill or spade the soil. If you didn't add compost to the garden last fall, till in some compost as you work the soil in early spring.

Even if it will snow again, you can plant seeds for cool-season veggies and wildflowers once the soil is frost-free and can be worked. Wildflowers need to get established early in order to have the best blooms during July/August/September.

Cool season veggies to plant early include:

- beets
- bok choy
- carrots
- green onions
- leeks

- kale
- lettuce
- onion sets
- peas and snow peas
- radishesspinach

Back to the snow season: heavy spring snows are just around the corner. Upright evergreens often split in the snow and other evergreen trees can sustain broken limbs from heavy snow. During heavy snows, check your evergreens and give them a loving shake to lighten the snow load. Knock off snow as it accumulates--before it builds up to 6 inches. Start from the lowest limbs and work up.

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