



# Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

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## Garden Tips

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### TREE & SHRUB CARE

Early April is the time to start treating for Cedar Apple Rust. This disease transfers back and forth from cedars to crabapples and hawthorns and causes those nasty looking bright orange, jelly-like balls that appear on cedar trees during rainy weather.

The only way to get rid of this year's galls is to physically remove them from the cedar tree. But to prevent infection next year, start spraying susceptible crabapples and hawthorns this year when their flower buds first show color. Spray again when 75% of the petals have fallen, and again 10 days later.

We recommend ferti•lome Liquid Fungicide or Hi-Yield Consan 20. For better leaf coverage, use ferti•lome Spreader Sticker when spraying.

### SUCKERS

Suckers are the weak, fast growing sprouts commonly found on crabapples, maples, plums and other trees. Pruning alone only makes the problem worse, as more sprouts grow back. The solution is to prune first, let the suckers start to grow, then spray them with Sucker Stopper. This ready-to-use product is designed to be applied directly on the shoot and keep them from regrowing.

### PREVENT GARDEN WEEDS

Use Weed and Grass Stopper containing Treflan to keep gardens and beds weed free. After clearing out existing weeds sprinkle Weed and Grass Stopper granules like salt over the ground. This keeps new weed seeds from sprouting all season. You can use these granules around most plants, but always read the label for specific instructions.

### FERTILIZING

Use ferti•lome Tree & Shrub Food now on all types of trees and shrubs including evergreens. Just apply it on the soil under the plant and just beyond the drip line and then water it in!

Feed all established perennials that are starting to grow with ferti•lome Geranium, Hanging Basket & Pansy Food (20-20-20).

### PRUNING

Early spring is a good time to prune most trees and shrubs. Prune spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia, white spirea, lilacs, or quince only after they bloom. Otherwise, you'll prune away the flowers for this year. For best results, use pruners with a good, sharp blade. The best time to prune pines, firs or spruce is after new growth begins. Pruning coupled with fertilizing helps plants flush out and fill in better.

### ROSE PRUNING & CARE

In early April, remove dead and weak canes, pruning back to four or five strong, healthy canes. Trim these back to 6" from the graft of the rose. Cut at a 45° angle about 1/4" above the closest bud.

Climbing roses should be pruned only after they bloom in the spring. Earlier pruning will remove this year's blossoms.

Early April is also the time to remove winter mulch around your roses and start monthly feedings with ferti•lome Rose Food with Systemic Insecticide for healthy, insect-free plants. Between these feedings use the water soluble ferti•lome Geranium, Hanging Basket & Pansy Food for spectacular flowers.