



# EATING for the ECOSYSTEM



Ahh, finally, fresh spring warmth greets us again and signs of life sprout all around us. Walking in the woods, perhaps you'll be lucky enough to see an early-bloomer native wildflower Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria*) or perhaps some Trillium. The woods are waking up, now it's time to wake up your home garden too...

**PLANTING TIP:** Veggies, berries, and herbs that can be planted through mid-March include strawberry, radish, peas, collards, blueberries, thyme, and spinach. Get growin'!

## EFTE's busy, busy winter

Greetings compadres! I had a very busy and seemingly quite short winter. During our “off” season, I earned **ISA Arborist certification** (PD-2708A), hired some great employees, and began working on our nonprofit branch. Arborist certification is the most rigorous plant biology and care certification available; nothing similar exists in the landscaping industry. Our knowledge applies not only to trees and shrubs, but also to perennials and annuals. I’ve learned a great deal pursuing this certification and am thrilled to join an organization so highly committed to science, professionalism, and ethics. If you’d like to know more about certified arborists, please visit [treesaregood.com](http://treesaregood.com).

We are launching our **new companion site**: [efte-are.org](http://efte-are.org), with contributions from an array of authors on topics from permaculture to herbalism to organic pest management. We are also growing our EFTEforest of employees, collaborators, contributors, and volunteers. [efte-are.org](http://efte-are.org)

course we're hiring crew members for our seasonal eco-landscaping work, but we also seek partners, board member candidates, and volunteers for our nonprofit initiatives. And we're welcoming writers and researchers who want to join our nonprofit programs. If you would like to get involved, please send a message to [victoria@efteonline.com](mailto:victoria@efteonline.com).

If you haven't yet heard of the (dun, Dun, DUN) **spotted lantern fly**, don't worry, you will soon. It is an obnoxious invasive insect pest, and you should be aware of them and help impede their spread. But we do not need to run out and buy bottles and bottles of bee-killing insecticides. There's a better way, and I'm committed to it. I'll gladly visit your home, help you identify and discover any SLFs on your property and/or remove the egg masses for you.

I hope you are getting ready for spring and enjoying the tree buds and blooming bulbs. If there's any way we can support you and your green spaces, let us know.

Peace and pea sprouts,  
Sherrilyn Billger  
EFTE CEO & Owner

### **Does your lawn need a re-vamp or a rescue?**

[Let's work together to assess and implement a remedy plan.](#)

### **Do you want to transform your space into something beautiful or beneficial?**

[We can help you design an ecosystem-strengthening garden.](#)



## Spring Services at EFTE include:

- Spotted Lantern Fly management
- Garden cleanup, design, planting
- Aerating and amending soil
- Custom classes
- Weed management
- Lawn to garden transformation
- Installation of shrubs, trees, native plants, and pollinators
- Woodland reclamation



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## Want to start or expand your edible garden?

Check out our [resources](#), especially this [Philadelphia-specific growing chart](#).

### More garden tips

- Use natural soil amendments such as leaf mulch or leaf mold, mycorrhizal fungi, worm castings, and compost. These types of amendments provide all-natural benefits for retaining moisture, fending off plant diseases, attracting beneficial organisms, and increasing nutrient and mineral presence and intake, which all improves plant health and yield.
- Consider [planting pollinator flowers](#) alongside your edibles.
- Support large plants like tomatoes and peas with poles in order to prevent tangles, stem breakage, and root damage; protect veggies from critters with fencing. Nancy Lawson's book *Wildly Delicious* offers great insights into working compassionately with animals who may want to nibble your plants. Consider planting a little extra for wild friends or using plants as repellents--try growing cayenne peppers on the borders of the vegetable area, using lavender near carrots and beets, and anise hyssop near tomatoes.



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### Spring Spruce-up Special:

\$50 off any eco-landscaping service of \$200 or more. Deadline for confirmed service booking is April 10. Mention code **SPRUCEUP**

.... for new clients only ....

## Upcoming Events

Haverford Earth Day  
April 27, 9am-12pm

Mt. Airy Day  
May 4, 11am-5pm

Wisdom of Women at Kospia Farms  
June 1



Eating for the Ecosystem is a woman-owned business with predominately-female work crews. In addition to our meticulous and eco-friendly practices such as limiting our carbon footprint and composting landscape debris, we are also committed to helping clients learn more about—and develop stronger relationships with—the plants in our ecosystem.

### Help us Grow

If you believe a friend or family member would like to learn about Eating for the Ecosystem, please [forward this newsletter](#).



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