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Spring's Here! That Means Get Busy

NO MATTER whether the winter is severe or mild, springtime has a way of sneaking up on us. The calendar says it came last week.

When we realize spring is here, we may be overwhelmed and tired out by the numerous tasks that need to be done right away.

It turns out there are a lot more vines on that fence than appeared to be there, and they're dustier than they looked.

Weed seed that blew in from down the street survived the winter and are growing vigorously. In a few days, each weed will drop a new crop of seed that will sprout promptly.

We wish now that we had taken time to apply weed and crab grass killer earlier. Give the lawn a dose now and hope for luck!

Weeds are the only green things in the lawn. Bermuda grass looks dead and beaten. The latter part of last summer was dry, and there's less thatch than usual, but it's not easy to clean off.

There's nothing you can do to hur-

ry a Bermuda grass lawn. It will turn green when the time comes. You can make it greener by providing the plant food it needs for healthy growth and color.

Maybe next year we'll have our soil tested to find out just what is needed. Right now, we'll put on a shot of whatever's handy.

The jonquils, tulips, iris and day lilies are trying to make their way through accumulated dry leaves that we intended all winter to work into the flower beds for mulch.

Too late now. About the only thing to do is to rake them and bag them to be hauled away. We can replace them with bagged cattle manure or commercial fertilizer from the seed store.

Wow! The price of fertilizer has zoomed! That's because it is made from natural gas and that's gone way up, too.

For a minute or two we speculate upon the possibility that if we don't fertilize we won't have to mow the lawn as often. But it's springtime, and we brush that thought aside.

After all, it doesn't require much fuel to mow most lawns. Doing our errands on one trip instead of four or five could save enough gasoline to do the job.

Everything needs watering, too. We haven't had normal rainfall the last few weeks. And as soon as we get time we ought to apply that "root feed" we bought last summer for the trees.

Trash tossed out of passing cars needs to be cleaned up. You wonder whether such thoughtless people throw empty bottles and paper cups on the floor of their homes and into their yards.

Then there's the vegetable garden. Too bad we didn't find time to work the soil into condition for planting several weeks ago.

When to plant? My goodness! For some things, it is late already.

The best part of springtime work is bringing out the old hammock. It should be kept handy for an emergency, in case the yard worker is overtaken by spring fever and needs to lie down.