

# THE MONTHLY GAZETTE

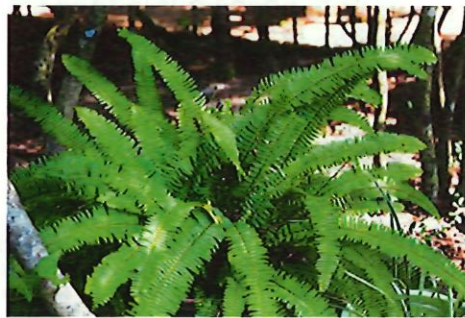
*"April... hath put a spirit of youth in everything."*

~ William Shakespeare



## Plant of the Month – Boston Fern

Boston fern is also known as sword fern due to its long, narrow, sword-like shape. Its scientific name, *Nephrolepis exaltata*, means "kidney scale" (in reference to the spores on the underside of the leaves) and "very tall." This bright green, cheerful, ornamental house plant is also an excellent air detoxifier, naturally removing cigarette smoke, formaldehyde, and other toxins from the air. Boston ferns also improve the air quality for people with dry skin by adding moisture to the air. These hardy plants need to be watered weekly and thrive in a variety of environments, including bright and indirect



sunlight. However, direct afternoon sun can burn the leaves. When planted outdoors, choose a spot with partial shade. Under optimal conditions, they can live for about 20 years. Boston fern symbolizes well-being, peace, and longevity. They are often given as a sign of good luck or to celebrate new life.

## Special Days

**April Fools' Day**  
April 1

**Find a Rainbow Day**  
April 3

**Passover Begins at  
Sunset**  
April 12

**Palm Sunday**  
April 13

**Tax Day (U.S.)**  
April 15

**Easter & Last Day  
of Passover**  
April 20

## Flower – Daisy



April's special flower, the daisy, is one of the oldest and best-known English flowers. It retains its Anglo-Saxon name, day's eye,

because of its appearance and the fact that it closes according to the amount of available sunshine. According to legend, the first daisy appeared when a young nymph turned herself into one to avoid unwanted praise and attention. Thus, the flower has come to symbolize modesty, chastity, and innocence.

## Birthstone – Diamond



For centuries, the diamond has stood for romance, intrigue, power, greed, and magic. In the Middle Ages, it was used to cure headaches and to create love potions. Today, it symbolizes everlasting love and is the anniversary gemstone for 10 and 60 years of marriage. The diamond is the world's hardest naturally occurring substance and the purest of all gemstones, as it is composed completely from crystallized carbon. Its name comes from the Greek word *adamas*, which means "unconquerable."

## Marvelous Facts About April Holidays

Here's a look at the history behind a few celebratory events in April.

**April Fools' Day**, celebrated on April 1, most likely began in 1564—the year France moved the start of its calendar from April 1 to January 1. It is said that those still celebrating the new year in April reportedly had paper fish (or April Fish) stuck to their backs by pranksters. And so, an April “fools” ritual was born.

**Earth Day** was launched on April 22, 1970, following a 1969 oil spill off the coast of California. Founded by

Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, the holiday inspired 20 million Americans to demonstrate in marches for the environment. Organizers continue to lead events worldwide on April 22 and credit this day to the formation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Arbor Day**, held the last Friday in April each year in the U.S., began in 1872 thanks to the efforts of Nebraska Territory pioneer J. Sterling Morton. Morton's first tree-planting holiday included prizes for the most trees planted.



## April Riddle

What can be easily found in the middle of March and April that can't ever be seen in the middle of any other month of the year?

**Answer:** The letter R

### April Zodiacs

Aries (The Ram)  
April 1–19

Taurus (The Bull)  
April 20–30

**April** is the fourth month of the year in the Gregorian calendar and one of only four that are 30 days long. (Do you know the other three? June, September, and November. The rest are 31 days with the exception of February, which has only 28 days.) The name April comes from *Aprilis*, derived from *aperire*, meaning “to open.” It is the name the Romans gave the month because it is the time of year when flowers and plants begin to bud or open.

### In the Good Ol' Days of April

Fifty-five years ago, in April 1969, the medium annual income was approximately \$9,400 in the United States. Average cost of a new house was about \$28,000. Minimum wage was \$1.60 per hour. A loaf of bread was 23¢, a dozen eggs were 62¢, and postage stamps were 6¢ each. A new car cost about \$2,000. But best of all, gasoline was 32¢ per gallon—even cheaper than a gallon of milk, which was \$1.10.

### What's Lucky in April?

Lucky Colors: Teal and Pink

Lucky Animal: Snake

Lucky Letters: H and J

Lucky Day: Thursday

Lucky Plant: Tulip



### April Birthdays

Rusty Staub (baseball player) – April 1, 1944

Emmy Lou Harris (singer) – April 2, 1947

Marlon Brando (actor) – April 3, 1924

Spencer Tracy (actor) – April 5, 1900

Betty Ford (first lady) – April 8, 1918

David Letterman (TV host) – April 12, 1947

Henry Mancini (composer) – April 16, 1924

Jennifer Garner (actress) – April 17, 1972

Maria Sharapova (tennis star) – April 19, 1987

Byron Allen (producer) – April 22, 1961

Ella Fitzgerald (singer) – April 25, 1917

Carol Burnett (comedian) – April 26, 1933

Jerry Seinfeld (comedian) – April 29, 1954

Isiah Thomas (basketball player) – April 30, 1961