Spring is often the favorite season of gardeners; lower temperatures, fewer biting insects than summer, and all your favorite flowers are making their first appearances. It can also be a game of "did I plant that?" which can be both fun and confusing, but sure makes things interesting. For garden care tasks, if you get them done in the early spring, you can concentrate on a few big jobs and continue to enjoy the rest of the season without challenging maintenance items. The USGS Native Bee Lab is looking for volunteers to look for bumble bees in Delaware. (Photo: Sarah Bouboulis)

**Help the Bees with Citizen Science**

If you already take walks around your garden, or a local park or roadside, this is a way you can contribute to science while you are out in your garden. Win-win! To learn more about the project or sign-up to participate, email Jenan El-Hifnawi at jelen@princeton.edu

**Time for Action: Spring area**

"Where's "up"?"

Pruning

-3 to 4 inches from ground level
-Dead wood, if present
-Extensive dead or unhealthy limbs
-Interference with utility lines or structures

**Space Invaders**

Invasive Species Spotlight

-Callery Pear (Pyrus calleryana), also known as Bradford Pear

-Weeds and invasive species are a big issue for native bees, birds, and people. Callery Pear is a common example of a non-native, invasive tree in Delaware. (Photo: Sarah Bouboulis)

**Fire Stone**

Plants with purple foliage in bright purple displays. It can spread, forming dense thickets with thorns. They are also generally weak ornamental. But birds do like the fruit, which is edible fruit for humans and are merely fruiting pear trees, they do not produce edible fruit. Although they are related to pear trees! Good replacements include Callery Pear (Pyrus calleryana). (Photo: Sarah Bouboulis)

**Claytonia virginica**

Woodland phlox is a spring favorite for fringed petals, and grows slightly taller. Barbatus native, sweet William (Dianthus barbatus) sometimes be confused with the non-native Dianthus chinensis. These are Often attractive to these early bloomers, and the flowers are quite lovely spring native! It blooms in early April and the flowers last for nearly a month, adding some much needed color to our mostly green (and maybe bare) gardens. (Photo: Sarah Bouboulis)