

March Lawn & Garden To-Do List

Trees and Shrubs

- Continue pruning nonflowering trees and shrubs.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs once they bloom.
- Don't prune birch, maple, and other "bleeding" trees until after leaves develop.
- Hold off on pruning frost and cold damage until growth starts, so you can see what recovers.
- Plant bare-root and container-grown trees/shrubs.
- Begin fertilizing after growth starts.
- Transplant trees and shrubs when the soil is workable, but before they leaf out.
- Prune and fertilize roses.

Perennials and Bulbs

- Cut back overgrown or leggy perennials.
- Cut or mow ornamental grasses.
- Plant, divide, and transplant perennials and ornamental grasses as soon as the soil is workable.
- Carefully weed your bulb beds.
- Replant any plants affected by frost heaving.
- Gradually remove extra mulch from tender plants.
- Fertilize bulbs after blooming.
- After all danger of frost has passed, plant tender bulbs such as caladium and dahlia.
- Prune overgrown vines after they bloom.

Lawns

- Cool-season grasses (such as fescue and bluegrass) will begin growing but are delicate. If needed, feed lightly with a balanced fertilizer. Aerate and dethatch only if absolutely necessary.
- Bermuda grass lawns may benefit from a "scalping" to remove the tall brown stubble of winter.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide or corn gluten.
- Add soil to low areas and patch bare spots in cool-season lawns.
- Avoid walking on spongy, wet soil.
- Test your soil pH, and add lime or sulfur.
- Resume watering when grass begins to grow.

Fruits, Vegetables, and Herbs

- Plant fruit trees.
- Plow and work your garden as soon as the soil is dry and crumbly. Work in compost.
- Plant and enjoy cool-season vegetables.
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables and fruits.
- Start seeds indoors for summer vegetables.
- Trim back leggy herbs and add new ones.
- Plant annual herb seeds.
- Plant tomatoes and other warm-weather vegetables in containers.

Annuals and Containers

- Wait until after the last frost to fill containers with summer annuals.
- Deadhead your plants to promote more blooms.
- Sow seeds of summer blooming annuals indoors.
- Transplant seedlings into peat pots.

Houseplants

- Pinch back spindly plants, and root the cuttings.
- Repot houseplants that are pot-bound.
- Address insects and diseases right away.
- As soon as your houseplants begin to grow, begin a schedule of fertilizing and regular watering.
- Gently wipe or spray houseplants to get rid of dust.
- Increase watering of cacti, to prepare for blooming.

Cleanup and Maintenance

- Start a compost pile during your spring cleanup.
- Scrub and refill your garden fountains.
- Clean out, inspect, and repair bird houses.
- Continue feeding the birds, and watch for the arrival of hummingbirds!
- Repair and paint fences, trellises, and furniture.
- Install sprinklers, to prepare for summer watering.
- Spring is a good time to spot drainage problems.
- Spring is a great time to start a garden journal.