



Through the
Garden
Gate

March Gardening Tips and Reminders

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In your garden

March not only ushers in daylight savings time, but also, Spring! It's garden time! Time to mulch and edge your garden beds and fertilize your existing plants. The fun begins!

Fertilize your trees and shrubs. Use a balanced plant food for all your flowering plants and trees (azaleas, rhododendrons, hydrangeas, cherries and dogwoods) and a good tree and shrub food for all your evergreens and deciduous trees (hollies, boxwoods, yews, maples and oaks).

For all your new plantings, use a hearty food starter at the time of planting. This will encourage root growth and help get the plant off to a vigorous start.

Flowering cherries, peaches, plums and pears bloom this month. Make certain to add one of these early spring bloomers to add drama to your garden early.

Prune roses and cut back ornamental grasses before new growth begins.

If necessary now is the time to spray fruit trees, roses and other trees and shrubs with a dormant spray. Dormant sprays should only be applied if the temperature is above freezing and are recommended if your plants had a problem the previous year. Dormant sprays vary for purpose so be certain to speak with your local nursery about the appropriate control.

It's time to plant pansies, violas and primroses for that early spring color in the landscape.

Fertilize bulbs with a slow-release fertilizer as they emerge.

Divide and transplant your perennials if needed.

Apply weed control to garden beds to prevent weeds from germinating.

Plant early vegetables such as onion, rhubarb, asparagus, lettuce, spinach, kale and potatoes.

Start caladiums in pots indoors for deck and patio color after the danger of frost is gone.

March is also the time to start seeds indoors for summer annuals.

Lawns

March is the month to get your lawn into shape by liming, seeding, fertilizing and preventing crabgrass and other weeds.

Seed the lawn with a good quality grass seed that is suited for the conditions of your lawn.

Fertilize your lawn with custom blended lawn foods for your spring application. If you are seeding the lawn utilize a food that includes slow-release nitrogen, sulfate of potash and the appropriate iron.

If needed, lime the lawn to raise soil pH. Lawns prefer a pH range of 6.2 - 6.8. If you lawn test below 6.0, or if you haven't limed the lawn in the past two years, it is probably time to lime! If pH levels are still low, you can apply more lime, as long as you wait six weeks between applications.

Prevent crabgrass in the lawn by applying the proper control in late March or early April.

Prevent broadleaf weeds in the lawn by applying the proper control this month. Not recommended if you are seeding your lawn.

Houseplants

Feed your houseplants with a good quality indoor plant food.

If needed, re-pot root bound houseplants to a larger pot utilizing a good quality potting mix. We have a variety of containers in a large variety of shapes and sizes. Visit the store for ideas in terra cotta; ceramic; terralyte and polystone.

Always check the leaves of your houseplants for insects or any other problems. If needed, apply the appropriate control for the problem. Visit your local nursery and take in a sample from your plant if you are not familiar with the problem and ask them to help diagnose.

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