

# Monthly Gardening Tips

Simple garden tips throughout the seasons



## January

### *Late January*

- Start sprouting seeds and microgreens indoors with a sprouter.
- Start viola and pansy seeds indoors for early spring planting.
- Start perennial and wildflower seeds indoors for outdoor transplant in May.
- Deeply water all outdoor plants on warmer days to help plants survive our dry, warm winters. This can be done on a sunny day using a soil needle or soaker hose.

## February

- Winter sow early season seeds outdoors in milk jugs.
- Plant tuberous begonias indoors now.

### *Mid-February*

- Start kohlrabi, kale, and cabbage seeds indoors.

### *Late February*

- Start broccoli, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, parsley, collards, onions, lobelia, ageratum, verbena, and double petunias seeds indoors.
- Plant pansy plants as soon as late February if the weather is consistently 40° F or higher. Over the course of 5-7 days *before planting*, acclimate plants to the outdoors by putting them outside in a protected area during the day and bringing them indoors when the sun goes down.
- Once seeds have germinated, place them in bright light or under a grow light.
- When seedlings have developed their first two true leaves, thin to one plant per container. Use tweezers to pinch off unwanted seedlings to avoid disturbing the remaining seedlings.
- Deeply water all outdoor plants on warmer days to help plants survive our dry, warm winters. This can be done on a sunny day using a soil needle or soaker hose.
- Keep bird feeders stocked with fresh seed or suet. Freshen water sources.

# March

## *Late March*

- *Start these seeds indoors:* Lettuce, Swiss chard, turnips, and sage. Start annuals like zinnias, dahlias, and marigolds. Start tuberous begonias, dahlias, callas, and caladiums in 8" pots indoors.
- *Outdoors:* Plant bare-root strawberries, pea seeds, potatoes, and onion sets.
- Begin fertilizing houseplants about once a month at half the manufacturer's recommended strength.
- Spray with dormant oil spray before mid-March to control scale. Apply borer control if there is evidence of borers.
- Prune out dead wood, shape, and refresh plants while they're dormant. Do not prune plants that flower in the spring to avoid removing blooms.
- Remove mulch from strawberries as soon as new shoots appear. Thin to 9" apart. Do not use high nitrogen fertilizer on strawberries, as it will result in soft berries.
- Deeply water all outdoor plants on warmer days to help plants survive our dry, warm winters. This can be done on a sunny day using a hose-end sprinkler or soaker hose.
- Apply pre-emergent on your lawn and water in.
- Feed the birds, especially when food sources are covered in snow. Refresh water sources.

# April

## *Early April*

- Cut back late summer-flowering plants like Russian sage, blue mist spirea, and butterfly bush to encourage lush growth. These plants bloom on this year's growth, and this will encourage new growth.
- Remove all tree wrap around the middle to the end of March to prevent insects and disease.
- *Start these seeds indoors:* peppers, New Zealand spinach, collards, beets, and eggplant
- *Start these seeds outdoors:* carrots, kohlrabi, peas, radishes, sage, spinach (not New Zealand), and turnips. Also from plants and roots: Chinese cabbage, parsley, spinach, broccoli, kale, cauliflower, potatoes, onion sets, and asparagus roots.

## *Mid-April*

- *Start these seeds indoors:* celery, leeks, onions, lima beans, endive, and escarole
- *Start these seeds outdoors:* parsnip, beet, carrot, endive, escarole, lettuce, pea, parsnip, and turnips. From plants: broccoli, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, collards, and kale.
- Apply JB treatment to your lawn for grubs.

## *Late April*

- *Outdoors:* Plant spring bulbs and roots: ixia, lily of the valley, anemone, lilies, freesia, gladiolus, dahlia, canna, and peonies. Plant acclimated perennials.
- When active growth appears on roses, fertilize with a rose food according to the label.
- Prune roses back to approximately 1-2 feet above the ground or to live wood. Don't prune climbers except to shape or remove dead canes.
- Feed turf areas according to package directions.
- Fertilize all established plants with new growth using a 5-10-5 or similar fertilizer.

- Fertilize trees and shrubs with the appropriate fertilizer.
- As weeds begin to actively grow, spray with weed control according to container instructions.
- Apply borer control only if you find evidence of borers and you did not apply in March.
- Spread out mulch mounds around perennials and roses.
- Remove tree wrap if you haven't already, as it's an excellent incubation area for insects and diseases.
- Feed the birds: Their usual food sources aren't yet readily available.

## May

### *Early May*

- *Plant these outdoors:* Broccoli, peas, beets, Brussels sprouts, carrots, collards, kale, radishes, spinach, tomatoes with Wall o' Water only, sage, pansies, all potted perennials, summer flowering bulbs. Make sure to 'harden' (slowly acclimate) the plants before planting them in the ground.
- Prune roses back to approximately 1-2 feet above the ground or to live wood. Don't prune climbers except to shape or remove dead canes.
- Feed turf areas according to package directions.

### *Mid-May*

- *Start these seeds outdoors:* Corn, snap beans, mustard, pumpkin, summer & winter squash.
- *Plant these outdoors:* anything already listed in early May, plus lemon balm, New Zealand and Malabar spinach, all herbs, annual flowers, dahlia tubers, gladiolus corms, and all potted perennials (hardened off).

### *Late May*

- *Plant these outdoors:* Anything already listed in early and mid-May, plus cucumbers, pumpkins, summer & winter squash, basil, lima beans, peppers, corn, and tomatoes.

### *Throughout May*

- Plant trees, shrubs, evergreens, annuals, and perennials once acclimated to the outdoors.
- Use a root-stimulating fertilizer when planting new plants or transplanting older plants.

## June

- Container-grown plants can be planted anytime this month once acclimated to the outdoors.

### *Early June*

- *Start these seeds outdoors:* Snap beans, beets, early types of corn, lima beans, and mustard seeds.
- *Plant these starter plants outdoors:* Cantaloupe, pumpkin, tomato, summer & winter squash, cucumber, oregano, pepper, endive, kale, kohlrabi, leek, and eggplant.
- Give your lawn a light feeding.
- Give roses their monthly feeding.
- Feed all flowering and fruiting plants with high phosphorus fertilizer following the schedule on the label.
- Fertilize outdoor hanging baskets and container gardens frequently using a bloom booster as these plants are watered daily and nutrients are quickly leached out of the soil. Fish emulsion works well as an organic alternative.

- Continue to closely watch for pests and treat quickly, carefully following label directions.
- Prune to shape plants and cut back shrubs as needed after they've completed their blooming period.
- Check your outdoor hanging baskets for moisture content twice daily and water thoroughly until water runs through the drainage holes in the pot.
- Apply mulch around plants to conserve moisture and cut down on weeds.

## July

- Plant container-grown trees and shrubs. You can find [planting instructions here](#). *For hard copies, scan the following QR code:*
- Plant annuals and perennials now. Plant in the cooler temperatures of the evening or early morning, rather than during the heat of the day. A cool, cloudy day is best. Plants in containers dry out quickly, so check hanging baskets and containers for moisture twice a day, especially if they are in direct sun.
- Apply fertilizer weekly to annuals, hanging baskets, and container gardens to compensate for nutrient leaching from frequent watering.
- Fertilize roses. After each bloom fades, cut the stem back to 1/4" above the first leaf set with 5 leaves.
- Check your lawn for appropriate water schedule. High temperatures and overwatering can cause disease.
- Apply Revive™ granules or Natural Guard™ Granular Humate to your lawn to help with water absorption.
- Inspect your trees and shrubs for insects and identify if treatment is necessary. Don't forget to check the underside of the leaves as this is where they hide to stay cool.
- Prune to shape plants. Thin and cut back spring flowering shrubs after they complete their bloom period if needed. Pruning later in the season will remove the flower buds for next year.



## August

- Divide and transplant Bearded Iris after the leaves dry up.
- Plant container-grown trees and shrubs.
- Plant perennials and transplant oriental poppies after their foliage has dried.

### *Mid to Late August*

- It is also a good time to divide or transplant spring-flowering bulbs.
- Check your lawn for any insect infestation and treat quickly. Also, apply Iron-Rich™ to give your lawn a feeding that will create a deep green lawn.
- Prune to shape plants. Deadhead as they complete their bloom.
- Check daily for ripe vegetables and enjoy them before local wildlife gets to them.
- Make sure to keep plants well-watered as August tends to be very hot and dry. Use a moisture meter to check moisture levels before you water.
- Apply mulch around plants to conserve water, keep the soil temperature consistent, and to cut down on weeds.

## September

- Fall lawns can be seeded until late September.

- Apply Pro-Rich™ Lawn Food to your lawn to revitalize the soil after a hot summer.
- Plant container-grown trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- Plant mums, fall asters, and pansies for fall color.
- Take cuttings from geraniums before frost and root them in moist vermiculite or potting soil for next summer.
- Dig and pot herbs from your garden. Put them in a sunny window to enjoy all year. Treat insect problems before bringing them inside.
- Divide and transplant perennials now to give them a chance to recover before the winter.
- Dig dahlias, cannas, tuberous begonias, callas, gladiolus, and other winter-tender bulbs and corms after a frost kills the tops. Dry the bulbs and corms for a few days and store them in sawdust, vermiculite, or perlite in a cool, dry place until next year.
- When planting fall bulbs, wait until the soil is cool and apply a fertilizer high in phosphorous like bone meal, superphosphate, or triple superphosphate.
- Prune single crop raspberries to 8-9" apart. Cut weak canes and those that have borne fruit.

## October

- Plant container-grown trees and shrubs.
- *Plant these spring-flowering bulbs for next spring's color:* Tulips, daffodils, crocus, hyacinths, etc. Plant when the soil is cool and apply a fertilizer that is high in phosphorous to ensure that the bulbs produce a dazzling display of color.

### *Early October*

- Plant amaryllis in pots for Thanksgiving bloom.

### *Mid to Late October*

- Plant amaryllis in pots for Christmas bloom.
- Plant garlic now.

### *Late October*

- Apply Pro-Rich™ Winterizer to your lawn to give it a great start for next spring.
- Watch for insect and fungus problems on your trees, shrubs, and perennials and treat quickly. Issues that go untreated now can become bigger problems next spring.
- If you have had black spot on your Aspens, or any other leaf diseases on your plants, clean up all fallen leaves and dispose of them in the trash. Do not put them in compost, as this will spread the problem.
- Deep-root water your trees and shrubs using a hose-end sprinkler to make sure they receive adequate moisture before going into dormancy and before the ground freezes.
- When preparing your perennials for the winter, remove dead plant debris that could harbor bacteria and fungus. Leave winter interest plants that are still standing, such as ornamental grasses and tall stalks like Autumn Joy sedum, rudbeckia, and coneflower.
- Mulch perennials and roses after the first hard frost using straw, compost, or shredded bark to help protect them throughout the winter.

## November

- Plant container-grown trees and shrubs as long as the ground isn't frozen.

- *Plant these spring-flowering bulbs for next spring's color:* Tulips, daffodils, crocus, hyacinths, etc. as long as the ground isn't frozen. Apply a fertilizer that is high in phosphorus.
- If you are overwintering them inside, prune summer annuals by cutting up to 1/2 of the plant to promote new, bushy growth.
- Prune dead wood from trees and shrubs. This is also a good time to thin and shape them if desired.
- *Keep an eye out for scale:* Hard, small, shell-encased insects that cling tightly to the bark of trees and shrubs, especially aspen and poplar. If scale is present, scrub lightly with a plastic scrubber and apply dormant oil spray to smother the insects once the tree has lost its leaves.
- Deep-root water your trees and shrubs on a warm day if the soil is not frozen or covered with snow.

### ***Early November***

- If not done in October, apply Pro-Rich™ Winterizer to your lawn to give it a good start for next spring.
- After snow compacts your garden soil, hand spade and leave the soil rough and chunky. The freeze and thaw cycles will break up the clods of soil.
- *Feed the birds:* Their usual sources of food are diminishing, so give them a helping hand.

### ***Late November***

- Use tree wrap on young fruit and other thin-barked trees. This will prevent sunscald, a result of our intense winter sun. Wrap from the bottom up and remember to remove the wrap in early spring.
- Move houseplants away from heating vents. Forced air heat dries out the foliage and soil.
- Cooler temperatures and shorter days mean slower growth for houseplants. Use a moisture meter to determine if plants need water. Most indoor plants won't need fertilizer in the winter months.

## **December**

- Plant paperwhite narcissus and amaryllis bulbs inside for bloom in six to eight weeks.
- Move houseplants away from heat vents.
- Cooler temperatures and shorter days mean slower growth for houseplants. Use a moisture meter to determine if plants need water. Most indoor plants won't need fertilizer in the winter months.
- Always be on the lookout for houseplant insects like scale, aphids, mites, etc. and treat accordingly. Check lighting level and supplement with artificial grow lights if needed.
- Poinsettias will benefit from a light feeding with a general-purpose fertilizer throughout the bloom period.
- Water trees and shrubs with hose-end sprinklers on a warm day if the soil is not frozen or covered with snow. This should be done every month in the winter to keep the roots moist.
- *Feed the birds:* Their usual sources of food are diminishing, so give them a helping hand.