



MARCH

GARDENING

TO DO LIST

GENERAL

- ☐ pick up sticks
- ☐ clean up leaves and debris

VEGETABLES & HERBS

- ☐ add yearly amendments to soil
- ☐ put up trellises and teepees for climbing vegetables
- ☐ start vegetable seeds indoors, under lights
 - early March: broccoli and cabbage (ready in 6-8 weeks), spinach, lettuce, kale, mustard and other greens (ready in 2-3 weeks)
 - late March: eggplant and pepper (ready in 6-8 weeks)
- ☐ plant early vegetables outdoors as soon as soil is workable
 - potatoes, onion sets, leeks, peas
 - beets, bok choy, kale, mustard, turnips

FRUIT

- ☐ prune small fruits, such as brambles, through bloom period
- ☐ routine prune apple and pear trees (wait to prune peach trees until after flowering)
- ☐ apply a balanced fertilizer to peach trees

SHRUBS & TREES

- ☐ prune (wait until after early flowering shrubs and trees have finished blooming)
- ☐ remove and destroy any egg masses (bagworms or Eastern tent caterpillar)
- ☐ if there are signs of spider mites, apply an ultra-fine horticultural oil spray
- ☐ if there was a problem with scale insects last year, spray a dormant oil before bud swell

ANNUALS & PERENNIALS

- ☐ plant pansies, dianthus and snapdragons
- ☐ cut back ornamental grasses and the stems of last year's perennials
- ☐ clean debris from the tops of groundcovers and short perennials
- ☐ divide some perennials (like hostas) as they poke out of the ground
- ☐ start seeds of ornamental annuals indoors (ready in 5-6 weeks)

LAWN

- ☐ seed your lawn to cover thin or bare spots (if you didn't last fall)
- ☐ apply herbicides (be aware that some should not coincide with lawn seed application -- when in doubt, ask)
 - for crabgrass, apply pre-emergent herbicide in mid-March
 - for broadleaf weeds, apply broadleaf herbicide in late March or throughout April
- ☐ sharpen lawnmower blades

INDOOR PLANTS

- ☐ begin repotting and dividing houseplants
- ☐ as new growth appears, resume fertilizing
- ☐ gradually increase watering

WILDLIFE

- ☐ empty bird boxes
- ☐ put up birdhouses
- ☐ apply deer repellents as perennials begin to grow