

MARCH 2021 GARDENING TIPS

“First a howling blizzard woke us, then the rain came down to soak us, and now before the eye can focus - Crocus!.”

Lilja Rogers

Annual, Perennials - Pansies, Hellebores galore, and other cool weather plants are ready!! Get some early color in your beds! Cool crop seedlings and or seeds can be planted in the ground now such as; peas, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussel sprouts, radish, turnips, beets, carrots etc. Continue to keep warm weather seedlings indoors. We have a large selection of seeds to choose from for your vegetable and flower gardens. Bare root crops, such as asparagus, rhubarb, horseradish, artichokes, onion sets and potatoes can all be put in the ground now. Perennials and grasses are poking their heads up and now is a good time to divide and transplant as needed. If you haven’t

already, grasses should be cut back. Tie the plant into a bundle and trim to a height of 6". It's ok to remove winter mulch from your flower beds - pull the mulch off gradually, as the plants show signs of new growth. Plan your summer garden with the young sprouts in your life! Teaching children how fun and easy it is to grow a garden of their own also encourages healthy eating, and helps them get some fresh air and away from those electronic devices.

Bulbs - Spring flowering bulbs are definitely brightening up the landscape now, i.e. Daffodils, crocus, muscari, and snow drops to name a few. Deadhead early flowering bulbs. Our summer flowering bulbs have arrived. Start putting some thought into where to incorporate them into your gardens. Our selection includes lily, dahlia, canna, caladium, gladiolus, allium, and elephant ears for starters. The flowers would also appreciate a nice dose of 'Espoma' Bulb Tone at this time of year.

Houseplants – Plants will react to longer days and brighter light at this time of year by putting out new growth. The end of the month is a good time to pinch back to encourage more new growth to thicken them up a bit. Continue to fertilize using $\frac{3}{4}$ strength, water soluble ‘Jacks’, ‘Miracle Grow’, or ‘Espoma’. While still checking for insects and disease, this is a good time to move plants (that need it) into larger pots. We have a huge selection of plants to choose from to add to your indoor collection!

Lawns – Pick up fallen debris, thatch, aerate, and apply spring fertilizer, crabgrass preventer, lime and seed if needed. Stop by and speak to our knowledgeable sales associates for the best course of action for all your lawn care needs. Or, simply call our Landscape division and sign up for our services where we will do everything for you, including mowing.

Trees, Shrubs – Continue using dormant or neem oil for control of insects and diseases,

especially on fruit trees. By mid to late March dilute the spray by $\frac{1}{2}$. Spraying should always be done on a still day with the temperature above 50 degree Fahrenheit. This is a good month to transplant trees and shrubs, as long as the soil is workable, but do it before the buds have broken. Fertilize using ‘Espoma’ Plant Tone or Holly Tone depending on the variety of your plantings. Roses and other deciduous shrubs should be pruned now. Be sure to know which variety of hydrangea you have before pruning as some bloom on old wood and some bloom on new wood. Our Garden Center is being stocked daily as plants are being grown, emerging from greenhouses, as well as being delivered. By the end of the month, our farm will be fully stocked with an incredible array of diverse plants! Can’t wait to see you!!

Get outside and enjoy!!! Maria