



GARDENING TIPS FROM BLUE WILLOW AND LANDSCAPE ONTARIO

MARCH-APRIL

Gardening in the Early Spring

1. Start begonia tubers, dahlias, and cannas in a warm, sunny window.
2. When indoor houseplants show signs of new growth, resume fertilizing.
3. Spray fruit trees with dormant oil and lime sulphur to kill overwintering insects and disease. Choose a day that will be above 0°C (32°F) for 24 hours, with no rain in forecast, and little wind. Apply in morning to trees whose leaf buds show no signs of swelling or green
4. For roses that are infected every year with blackspot or for highbush cranberry attacked by insects every summer, spray in late winter with the same dormant oil combo.
5. Continue to push perennials back into ground if they heave due to frost.
6. Remove evergreen boughs or burlap from rhododendrons and conifers.
7. Cut back ornamental grasses in early April and compost foliage.
8. In early to mid April, remove styrofoam rose huts or rose collars. Push aside soil packed around roses, if applicable.
9. Rake leaves and twigs from lawn when it's firm enough to walk on.
10. Fertilize lawn with Parkwood™ Lawn Food 21-6-12 or Parkwood™ Crabgrass Preventer 21-6-12.
11. Plant your started Pansies and Primulas in containers and borders.
12. Sow peas, radish, onion, lettuce, and spinach directly into cool soil around mid April.
13. Be aware of how much rain falls in April and water accordingly. Don't forget to water plants in year-round containers.
14. Fertilize fruit trees, specimen evergreens, and shade trees with fertilizer spikes.
15. Fertilize all other garden plants with all-purpose granular Parkwood™ Garden-All 4-12-8.
16. Top dress all beds and borders with a rich layer of compost.
17. When days are warm but evenings still cool, overseed or patch your grass with Parkwood™ Supreme Lawn Grass Mixture for sun/partial shade or Parkwood™ Forest Blend for shade.



SEASONAL REMINDER: Fruit Trees

If you had problems with insects and/or disease on any fruit trees last year, chances are they will return again this year. To kill over-wintering pest and disease you can spray your tree(s) while it is still completely dormant in March or early April with lime sulphur and horticulture oil, sold together as a dormant spray kit. One kit will spray up to 4 fruit trees.



Choose a day without wind or precipitation and a temperature that won't fall 0°C (32°F) for 24 hours. Follow the recommended dilution rate and start spraying from the top so the runoff will fall onto the lower branches. Be careful not to let any of the moisture touch your house, driveway, walkway or patio as it can stain. If necessary, tape a sheet of plastic to the surfaces at risk.

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