

Hastings Nature & Garden Center

Things To Do In March

March is the month when many of the beautiful spring flowering perennials begin to flower. With Spring just around the corner, it is time to get serious and get the garden ready!

Perennials, annuals, and bulbs

- Pull the mulch off gradually as the plants show signs of new growth. The purpose of winter mulch is to act as a protector from sudden changes of temperature and chilling winds.
- Prune roses this month. Severe pruning results in nicer long stemmed flowers and more compact bushes.
- Begin to spray roses for blackspot.
- Feed roses.
- Sow seeds of summer blooming annuals indoors if you haven't started in late February.
- Seeds which were started indoors last month may be transplanted from the flats into peat pots and given dilute fertilizer.
- Divide and transplant summer blooming perennials and fertilize as soon as new growth appears.
- Plant tender bulbs and tubers (gladiola, lilies and dahlias).
- Prune winter Jasmine after flowering; cut honeysuckle back to 3ft.
- Remove all dead blooms from bulbs.
- Fertilize any bulbs that have finished blooming.
- Finish planting Primroses and Pansies.
- Pinch off tips of Sweet Pea seedlings and Mums, when they are 4 inches tall.

Shrubs and trees

- Transplant shrubs and trees in March and early April as soon as the soil is workable, but before buds have swelled or broken open.
- Fertilize shrubs and trees if this wasn't done in February. Use an acid type rhododendron fertilizer to feed evergreens, conifers, broad leaf evergreens, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. Use an all-purpose fertilizer to feed roses and other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use granular type fertilizers, be sure to water it in thoroughly.
- Finish pruning fruit trees this month - before the buds swell.

Fruits and veggies

- Prepare the vegetable garden soil for planting. The addition of manure, peat moss or compost are good additives.
- Plant peas and sweet peas now if you didn't last month.
- Planted the perennial vegetables asparagus, rhubarb, horseradish and artichokes.
- Plant eggplant, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, celery, leeks, onions, potatoes, and radish seeds.
- Plant seeds or plants of spinach, chard, cabbage, cauliflower, and other hardy vegetables mid month.
- Plant Strawberries, Blueberries, Grapes and fruit trees.
- Start tomatoes, lettuce, and many other vegetables from seed.

House Plants

- Pinch back and fertilize houseplants to promote new growth and to thicken them.
- Turn your houseplants a quarter turn each week to make sure all sides of the plant receive adequate light to keep the shape of the plant balanced.
- Mist or spray your houseplants to clean away the winters dust, prevent spider mites and add a little humidity.

Odds and ends

- Pull weeds out of the garden while they are young.
- Turn the compost pile.
- Keep an eye out for insects.
- Dethatch, rake or aerate, lime, then fertilize and then overseed your lawn.
- Test your soil pH to see if any amendments are necessary.
- Fill in low spots in your landscape or scoop out a channel for water to drain away.
- Clean out birdhouses so that they'll be ready when the birds return.

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3920 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, Georgia, 30319

Telephone: 404.869.7447 Fax: 404.869.7449

www.hastingsgardencenter.com

