

March Is The Time To:

- lime your lawn if you haven't done so already
- seed new lawns when danger of frost is past
- get rid of moss on lawns by raking the affected areas, throw the debris in the trash, aerate the area, top dress with sand to improve drainage and overseed - OR - use moss killer (ferrous sulphate)
- fertilize lawn in early April
- fertilize Rhodod, Azaleas and Camellias before they bloom (and again after they finish)
- tidy up and weed flower beds. Look for slugs, wood bugs and aphids while you are at it
- pick up your favorite varieties of summer flowering bulbs early while supplies last
- plant the bulbs you have chosen as weather permits
- lift, divide and share perennials in your yard and plant new ones. Weekly deliveries of perennials are happening now at *Quality Farm & Garden*
- after flowering, fertilize spring blooming bulbs so they can store the energy for next year's flower production
- plant evergreen shrubs and hedges
- watch for hummingbirds in your yard. Give them a mixture of 1 part sugar to 4 parts water and skip the food colour - it is bad for them
- change hummingbird food weekly as fermentation may begin which makes the birds sick
- plant sweetpeas if you haven't already
- finish pruning roses, dip your clippers in rubbing alcohol between cuts - this prevents the spread of disease
- get out and move those trees and shrubs that are in the wrong spot
- plant strawberries, raspberries, asparagus and rhubarb and feed your existing plants with fertilizer
- indoor seeding continues - tomatoes, basil, cabbage, broccoli, brussel sprouts, kohlrabi, kale, head lettuce, leaf lettuce, annual flowers, perennial flowers
- outdoor seeding 3 to 4 weeks before last frost sow seeds or more transplants of leaf lettuce, peas, broadbeans, spinach, onion sets, potatoes, parsley, collards, radishes. Cool temperatures slow down germination, but if the days are sunny why not get out and get busy?
- turn compost and add Rot-It or manure
- potted or forced mini-daffs, iris or tulips can be placed outdoors on the balcony or porch over night to slow down the blooming process
- cut a few branches of cherry, apple, pear, plum, crabapple, spirea or forsythia for forcing into bloom indoors. They look nice in a vase with daffs, tulips or freesia
- garlic planted in fall of '96 will be poking up through the ground now; add nitrogen in March to boost leaf production (1/4 cup bloodmeal) This is an organic source of nitrogen and won't burn the tender plants
- if the calendar says March but the weather feels like April go out and enjoy it, but leave those geraniums and other annuals you just bought at the nursery indoors or in a cold frame or greenhouse until night time temperatures are above 15°C
- turn over the fall rye or other "green manure" crops about 3 weeks before you plan to seed or plant your veggie garden. If the green manure crop gets too tall to turn easily just weed-eat the grassy stuff before you pick up the shovel to dig
- your last spraying of dormant oil/lime sulphur should be done by now, but if not, you have until the buds begin to show colour. Look closely, some trees are further ahead than their neighbours. Lime sulphur can burn tender new growth.
- select and plant fruit trees, ornamental trees, shrubs, heather, ground cover and perennials (that should just about fill your yard!)
- plant early so roots can establish during cool weather before the stress causing heat of summer begins
- remember to water your new plantings if we get a dry stretch in spring
- transplant house plants into new or freshly washed containers and don't forget to use a good quality potting soil
- spread compost or well rotted manure onto vegetable garden, flower beds, or as mulch along hedges and between shrubs