

Garden Activities Calendar

Recommended for Canadian Hardiness zones 4 and 5

March

- ✓ plant flower and vegetable seeds indoors
- ✓ prune fruit trees and grape vines
- ✓ start tuberous begonias in pots
- ✓ remove winter protection from shrubs and evergreens, but do so on an overcast day to prevent sun-scorch

April

- ✓ start summer flowering bulbs (dahlias, cannas, etc.) indoors
- ✓ apply dormant oil spray to fruit trees and shrubs
- ✓ remove heavily matted leaves from garden beds, shred and use as a mulch
- ✓ clean away plant debris from perennial beds
- ✓ watch for lily beetles emerging on warm days; hand pick and destroy.
- ✓ turn over the compost pile and mix in some shredded leaves
- ✓ apply an organic pre-emergent weed killer such as corn-gluten meal to lawns to control crab-grass (when forsythia is in bloom)

May

- ✓ transfer bedding annuals to outdoors in a protected area or cold frame to harden-off
- ✓ sow annual seeds including vegetables directly into the soil
- ✓ check trees for tent caterpillars and other insects
- ✓ repair any winter damage to lawn, over-seed where necessary (wait 6 weeks after applying corn-gluten meal)
- ✓ plant perennials, shrubs, trees and hedges
- ✓ fertilize lawn and start mowing, aerate if necessary
- ✓ prune summer flowering shrubs
- ✓ plant annual bulbs (cannas, dahlias, gladiolus, etc.) directly into soil
- ✓ add compost or well-rotted manure while planting
- ✓ mulch new beds or top-up the mulch on older beds
- ✓ transplant tender flowers and vegetables after risk of frost passes

June

- ✓ prune evergreens and hedges
- ✓ thin out crowded annuals and vegetables
- ✓ add garden waste to compost
- ✓ stake plants that need support
- ✓ check plants for any infestations; hand pick bugs where possible, and use an organic solution such as BTK for problems such as tent caterpillars.
- ✓ prune spring flowering shrubs and trees after flowering

July

- ✓ raise the cutting height of mower blade
- ✓ shallow hoe gardens regularly if not mulched
- ✓ hand pick any weeds that have made it through the mulch
- ✓ check for aphids on roses, nasturtiums, etc., a strong spray from the hose should remove them
- ✓ prune climbing roses

August

- ✓ monitor lawn for grubs (See "Resources")
- ✓ sow vegetables for fall harvest
- ✓ take notes and photos of the yard for future planning
- ✓ continue to weed and control pest problems

September

- ✓ prepare and seed new lawns (wait 6 weeks after applying corn-gluten meal)
- ✓ add white Dutch clover seed to lawns for biodiversity (wait 6 weeks after applying corn-gluten meal)
- ✓ top dress existing lawns and garden beds with compost or manure
- ✓ plant evergreens
- ✓ plant garlic
- ✓ renovate perennial borders, divide perennials and share with friends

October

- ✓ plant spring flowering bulbs (tulip, crocus, daffodil, etc.)
- ✓ dig and store summer bulbs (dahlias, gladiolus, tuberous begonias, etc.)
- ✓ plant amaryllis for Christmas blooms
- ✓ clean up garden for fall but leave some seed heads for birds
- ✓ allow a layer of leaves to settle on garden beds for winter protection
- ✓ gather leaves from lawn areas and driveway and add to compost pile
- ✓ make sure 1st year transplants (especially trees, shrubs and cedar hedges) are well watered before winter freeze-up
- ✓ put shelters around 1st year evergreen transplants to protect from winter's drying wind and sun, and do the same for broadleaf evergreens such as rhododendrons and daphne

Winter

- ✓ clean your garden tools
- ✓ review your garden notes and photos to plan changes and additions
- ✓ check out new garden trends in seed and plant catalogues
- ✓ read a garden book
- ✓ join a garden club or horticultural society

Resources:

Insect information: www.uoguelph.ca/debu/

Lawn maintenance: ottawa.ca/en/residents/water-and-environment/lawn-care

Grubs in lawns: www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/08-023w.htm

Soil testing: www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/crops/resource/soillabs.htm

Weed identification: www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/weedgal.htm

To sign up for **Trowel Talk**, our monthly gardening advice newsletter, email mgottawaeditor@gmail.com.
You can view previous copies at www.mgottawa.ca/Trowel_Talk.php

If you are interested in growing your own edible vegetables and fruits, see our online newsletter at www.mgottawa.ca/The_Edible_Garden.php

The printing of this calendar is made possible by the generous support of Green Thumb Garden Centre.



17 Tristan Court, Nepean, ON
613-228-0224
www.greenthumbgarden.ca

While we appreciate their support, the Master Gardener organization does not make recommendations regarding any commercial business.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton acknowledges the following partners:



www.gardenontario.org



613-230-3276
www.friendsofthefarm.ca



www.landscapeontario.com