

Fertilizing

- Fertilize ground covers and shrub borders with 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 ft². [Fertilizing ground covers](#)
- Fertilize your important shade trees if not done in February. [Fertilizing trees and shrubs](#)
- Fertilize rhubarb and asparagus beds early in March before growth begins. [Asparagus and Rhubarb](#)
- Ponds should be fertilized starting this month and continuing through October. [Water Gardens](#)
- Work fertilizer and lime into your garden beds per your soil test results before planting your vegetables. [Liming and Fertilizing](#)

Planting

- Plant your small fruit plants, grape vines and fruit trees before the buds break. [Planting fruit trees and Small Fruits](#)
- Transplant trees and shrubs. [Planting trees and shrubs](#)
- New trees, shrubs, perennials and ground covers can be planted the entire month.
- Direct sow seeds of the following perennials: columbine, hollyhock, coreopsis, daisy, phlox and sweet William.
- Plant new rose bushes late in the month. [Roses](#)
- Set out cabbage plants. [A Beginner's Guide to Vegetable Gardening](#)
- Plant the following vegetable crowns and seeds this month: asparagus and rhubarb crowns, broccoli, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, carrots, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, onions, parsnips, garden peas, Irish potatoes, radishes, rutabagas, spinach and turnips. [Vegetable sowing calendar](#)
- Start annual flowers and warm-season vegetables including pepper, tomato, eggplant and sweet potato slips inside in early March. [Starting seeds indoors](#)

Pruning

- Finish pruning fruit trees. [Pruning fruit trees](#)
- Prune blueberries early in the month. [Pruning Blueberries](#)
- Prune roses late in March (when the forsythia bloom) [Pruning roses](#)
- Prune abelia, mahonia and nandina this month if needed. [Pruning trees and shrubs](#)
- Prune spirea, forsythia, flowering quince, winter honeysuckle, weigela and lilac immediately after flowering, but not after July 10th. In general, cut oldest limbs near the ground level for constant rejuvenation of shrubs.
- Severely prune overgrown shrubs other than needled evergreens. Pruning in late winter and early spring may result in removing this season's flower buds; however, the results of the pruning are much better when trimmed before bud break.
- Pick off faded flowers of pansy and daffodil. Pansies will flower longer if old flowers are removed. This is also known as deadheading. [Deadheading](#)

Pest Management

- If needed, spray landscape shrubs for the following insect pests: [euonymus-scale](#), [juniper-spruce spider mites](#) and [hybrid rhododendron-borer](#).
- Start your rose spray program just prior to bud break. [Fungus on Roses](#)
- Spray fruit trees with dormant oil before color shows in buds. [Fruit Spray Schedule](#).
- Watch your apple and pear trees for fire blight and if needed, spray with streptomycin for control while the trees are in bloom.

Lawn Care

- Fertilized cool-season lawns until mid-month but no later. Do not use slow-release fertilizer on the lawn at this time of the year. [Cool season grass calendar](#)
- Apply crabgrass pre-emergent to your lawn late this month to help control crabgrass in turf. [Crabgrass control in lawns](#)
- Seed fescue and bluegrass if not done in September. [Growing Cool Season Grasses](#)
- Mow your tall fescue lawn, maintaining a height of 3".

Propagation

- Continue to divide perennials including daylily, Shasta daisy, gaillardia and coreopsis. [Dividing perennials](#)

Miscellaneous To Do

- Check garden supplies such as fertilizer, insecticides and fungicides to see if you have adequate amounts.
- Check all garden equipment, lawn mowers, tillers, hedge trimmers, tools, hoses and sprayers to see if they are in working order before they are needed.
- Be certain that areas around perennials including peony, hollyhock and phlox are clean of last season's growth.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide for weed control if needed. Do not use where you will be seeding this year. [Weed control in landscape beds](#)
- Mulch around trees and shrubs. [Mulch](#)
- Turn under garden soil to expose slumbering plant-eating insects to freezing temperatures.
- Re-pot houseplants. [Repotting houseplants](#)

Plants in bloom in March: Saucer Magnolia, Bradford Pear, Flowering Cherry, Star Magnolia, Serviceberry, Winter Honeysuckle, Flowering Quince, Carolina jessamine, Forsythia, Periwinkle, Spirea, Thrift, Violet, Crocus, Daffodil, Hyacinth, Tulip