

March

- Spring is the right time for two special turf treatments, if needed: vertical cutting or thinning to remove thatch and aeration or coring to reduce soil compaction.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide before lawn weeds get started. These chemicals work by preventing seed from germinating. Check with your local Extension office for specific recommendations.
- Use crab grass killer before forsythia blooms fade.
- Vermiculite purchased from garden supply stores does not contain the nutrients needed to sustain growth for seedlings. If you use vermiculite to start seedlings, be sure to transplant them to soil when the second pair of true leaves form.
- Don't buy more chemicals than you can use in a season. The smaller bottle the better. If you have aged chemicals you no longer use, dispose of them according to local regulations. Don't pour them down the drain or onto the ground because this can pollute the water systems, damage and poison the soil.
- Place bird houses outdoors early this month.
- This is the time to start resurrecting the water lily pool. Drain and clean the pool before growth begins.
- Mow back the old foliage of lirioppe to a height of 2"-3".
- Some perennials like Hostas, lirioppe, daylilies, dicentra, shasta daisies, ajuga, oxalis and coral bells may be divided before growth starts in the spring.
- Fertilize naturalized bulbs in the spring as leaves emerge. Allow the foliage to die back naturally. The energy the foliage provides is needed to nourish the bulbs for next years blooms.
- Many annuals are very frost hardy when plants are small. Seeds of alyssum, California poppy, candytuft, larkspur, pansy, viola, phlox, pinks, Shirley poppy, snapdragon, stock and sweet pea may be sown as soon as the soil has thawed.
- Once new growth begins on trees and shrubs, cut back winter-killed twigs to living, green wood.
- For more compact pyracanthas without the risk of losing berries, pinch back new growth now.
- Prune evergreen shrubs before growth starts.
- Boxwood should be pruned by thinning the outer foliage of the plant and cutting back the branches to retain desired height. Trim and fertilize established boxwoods before

new growth starts but don't cultivate under boxwoods since their roots are shallow and may be damaged.

- Boxwoods may be moved now. Plant at the same depth it was before the move.
- Hedges can receive their first pruning this month. As you prune, be sure to leave the base of the plant wider than the top, this allows sunlight to get to the bottom of the plant, creating a full, dense hedge.
- Plant roses and bare-root shrubs while they are still dormant, about 4 weeks before the average last frost date. Plant new rose bushes in properly dug beds.
- Fertilize established roses after pruning. If black spot or powdery mildew has been a problem start applications of a recommended fungicide.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after flowering is complete.
- Dogwoods and magnolias should only be moved in early spring. Always move magnolias with a ball of dirt. When transplanting small dogwoods (2'-3') transplant better than larger trees which have a greater risk of transplant shock.
- Propagate deciduous shrubs, such as forsythia and winter jasmine now by ground layering.
- Trees such as birch and maple, should not be pruned until after their leaves are fully developed.