

What to do in the March Garden

Clean the Garden: Weathering permitting, pick up sticks, rake leaves, etc.

Sowing seeds that still need the cold to germinate: such as Poppies,

Feathering the nest: (clean out birdhouses) Birds like clean neat homes for their young.

Testing the soil: This month tests in the garden beds and other flower beds and vegetables also the lawn. Add lime and/or fertilizer, as the tests indicate. Also top off beds with compost.

Start Tomato Seeds

Prune Roses back

Direct Sow: In the garden, as soon as the soil is crumbly enough to work, plant direct-sow crops such as radishes, carrots, peas, and beets, spinach.

Reconfiguring Raised Beds: This can be done by reconfiguring placement of raised beds and adding new trellis and fencing structures. This can be in March before the mad rush of planting the majority of our crops and the mad rush of going to over crowded nurseries in April

Adding Mulch: If you missed the window in February like me, now is an excellent time to top all beds with a heavy layer of mulch. It keeps the soil moist and cool, It is also used to blanket out any weed seeds thinking of getting a head start on my perennials. Who wants to weed?

Bird Watching: March is the time to enjoy all of the bluebirds, nuthatches, woodpeckers and purple martins scouting out the perfect nest site. We've worked hard to build many nest boxes and feeders—now's the time to enjoy watching them!

Give Ornamental Grass a Haircut Cut back ornamental grasses that was left up for winter interest. Cut them to about six inches and clean up any leaves that get stuck around the crowns. Turn the Compost After things thaw enough, turn any compost bins with a pitchfork and hopefully find some nicely decomposed garden debris from last summer. This will make a nutritious and attractive top dressing for my perennial beds.

Divide and Conquer: March is the perfect time to relocate overgrown the divisions or offering them to friends or local school gardens.

Planning a Woodland or Semi Shaded Garden: Try to plan on bringing a variety of shades of green and textures to the garden and semi shade tolerant plants great addition to the space.

Planning a Patio Garden or container Garden: Many plants will thrive in containers if given the right soil and location of the containers. Just watch out for the amount of sun, placing containers under leaky gutters, in a area where there is a high traffic volume where the container could be damaged.

Strategizing Containers: Containers for the garden are vast.. anything works...handle baskets, an old tea pot, old wooden crate, a rail planter, a soon-to-be-purchased hanging planter and some old pots dragged out of someones trash.

Tackle the Lawn: Once lawn weeds start to flower, they are difficult to kill with sprays. Plant bare spots with lawn seed for the area....sun, shade, semi shade, or sod.

Iris care: Add soil around and iris that has heaved out of the ground. TB's, MTB's, IB's, SDB's.

Siberian, Louisiana, Japanese, Water Loving iris.....mulch, fertilize, water, water, water.

Slug and snail repellent: Add on applications as per instructions now and another in April