



## Garden Tasks

updated June 2026

### January

- Inspect stored bulbs & discard the bad ones.
- Clean, repair and sharpen garden tools. Wipe them with oil.
- Plan and design gardens for this year. [LINK](#)
- Look at ways to add winter interest & improve habitat for the birds. Consider native plants.
- Begin Winter Sowing. [LINK](#)
- Order vegetable and flower seeds.
- Start slow germinating seeds, e.g. geranium and begonia.
- Inspect and treat houseplants for white fly, spider mites, and aphids.

### February

- Take stem cuttings of geraniums and any over wintering annuals.
- Plant impatiens, peppers and eggplants indoors. (check seed packages for 8- 12 week early planting)
  - Prune trees [LINK](#)
- Check out the dates of garden shows & Seedy Sundays

### March

- Start tomatoes indoors (late March early April).
- Order summer-flowering bulbs.
- Prune summer-flowering shrubs (e.g. Hydrangea)
- Plant flower and vegetable seeds indoors.
- Prune grapevines.
- Start summer flowers and tender perennials indoors (dahlia, tuberous begonias, cannas, callas and caladiums in pots).
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees and pest-prone shrubs (non-freezing temperatures, before buds open).
- Cut some spring flowering shrub branches for forcing inside.

### April

- Best practice is stay out of garden until it thaws and comes to life.
- Prepare annual beds & containers for planting. Top dress a generous amount of compost and other organic material.
- Cut down ornamental grasses to 8"
- Top dress perennial beds with compost

- Loosen packed mulch and press back frost heaved perennials.
- Repair lawn with compost, seed, rake and fertilize (late April early May). [LINK](#)
- Don't mow the lawn until grass is at least 4" to encourage healthy root growth. Keep mower blades high, so grass doesn't burn off in July.
- Plant shrubs, trees, and hedges.
- Begin to move ornamental grasses and perennials.
- Setup water collection system.
- Open Pond
- Check winter sown containers for germination and water needs.
- Cut out old raspberry canes.

### May

- Best practice is to cut down perennials to 8" only.
- Harden off seedlings that have been started indoors.
- Gradually remove protection on rose bushes; prune and apply dormant oil before the buds break. Move dormant bushes if needed.
- Deadhead tulips and daffodils, leaving the foliage to nourish bulb and die back naturally.
- Take notes and photos of bulb plantings for later changes.
- Move & divide perennials.
- Ensure that newly planted perennials, shrubs & trees need consistent on-going watering.
- Plant tender summer-flowering bulbs (e.g. gladiolas, cannas, and dahlias).
- Stake shrubs and vines as they grow.
- When garden soil warms to 15C, vegetable seeds can be planted
- Wait until the last week of May to transplant tender flowers (petunias, impatiens etc.) and vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, etc.) + 15C overnight.
- Weed gardens and apply natural (non dyed) mulch to a depth of 2"- 4" depth.
- Remember to leave some bare spots for ground nesting bees.
- Cage peonies.
- Direct seed fast growers such as calendula, cosmos and marigolds directly in the garden.
- Annual flower containers need to be watered daily throughout summer and fertilized weekly for continued growth and flower production.

## June

- Plant annuals and begin to fertilize weekly
- Deadhead flowers after blooming to encourage reblooming
- Remember to leave some seed heads for birds
- Chelsea chop perennials like russian sage, phlox, sedum. [LINK](#)
- Prune back common milkweed half to one third to encourage new growth for monarchs.
- Pinch back annuals to make bushier.
- Prune evergreens and hedges if necessary. [LINK](#)
- Thin out crowded vegetables and annuals.
- Mulch bare ground and pathways in vegetable garden for moisture retention and weed control.
- Irrigate gardens as required.
- Stake/cage dahlias, tomatoes, gladiolas.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs and trees after flowering.
- Weed and water as necessary.
- Move houseplants outdoors to a protected location when temperatures are +10C overnight.

## July

- Stake plants that tend to fall over (Delphiniums, Euphorbia, and tall Sedums) and pinch back as necessary.
- Fertilize vegetables, annuals and roses.
- Trim back strawberry plants after fruiting. [LINK](#)
- Turn compost. [LINK](#)
- Deadhead and trim perennials as necessary such as daylilies.

## August

- Plant fall vegetables (spinach, lettuce)
- Trim and divide irises. Check for iris bore.
- Divide and move peonies and other early blooming perennials.
- Water wisely and weed as necessary.
- Plant fall-flowering perennials.
- Order spring-flowering bulbs.
- Dry flowers and herbs.

## September:

- Bring in houseplants before it gets too cold overnight.
- Take cuttings from geraniums and coleus.
- Continue to divide perennials watering well into fall.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs. Daffodils need to be planted early, but you can leave tulips till November
- Prepare and seed new lawns.
- Plant shrubs and evergreens. Remember to water until freeze up.
- Fertilize and aerate lawns as required.
- Water all shrubs and evergreens well until the ground freezes.
- Do final weeding of year.

## October

- Dig and store summer-flowering bulbs.
- Prepare new garden beds. Top dress with nearly completed compost.
- Put ponds to bed.
- For ecological health, leave your garden standing over winter. This gives insects places to overwinter and gives winter interest.
- Continue to plant spring flowering bulbs.
- Prepare vegetable garden for winter. [LINK](#)
- Chop leaves with mower rather than raking. Leave fallen leaves under trees and in garden for butterfly larva.
- Plant amaryllis for Christmas bloom.
- Top dress perennial beds with almost finished compost.
- Seed new lawns.

## November

- Make sure evergreens, shrubs and young trees are well watered for winter.
- Protect young trees from rodents after ground freezes.
- Plant some spring bulbs in pots for forcing. [LINK](#)
- Store tools, hoses and other garden equipment and ornaments for the winter.
- Protect rose bushes by banking soil or compost just before the ground freezes.
- Protect tender perennials such as crocosmia, rhododendrons, azaleas with straw, compost, leaves or evergreen boughs.

## December

- Watch for bugs on houseplants (e.g.white flies, spider mites, and aphids).
- Apply mulch to tender perennials just as the ground starts to freeze.
- Protect pyramidal evergreens, rhododendrons and other shrubs using burlap screens.
- Cut branches for winter containers.
- Order seed catalogues.

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