

Dennis' 7 Dees

MONTHLY GARDENING TIPS

MARCH



FOR FRESH COLOR



Add new arrivals to containers and landscape: fragrant Wallflowers, vibrant Ranunculas, Anemones

Hellebores make great perennial plants for the garden—they are evergreen, easy-care, and early bloomers.

FOR THE LAWN & LANDSCAPE



As new growth appears, apply *G&B Fertilizer* to help support lush, vigorous growth.

Divide hostas and daylily as they emerge; divide ornamental grasses (if not done in fall).

Add lime to adjust pH if needed; also allows fertilizer to be easily absorbed by grass and helps clear acid-loving moss.

After the first mowing of the season, apply *G&B Lawn Fertilizer* to support a lush carpet of grass.

After March 15th, put down grass seed to patch and fill areas. Cover new seed with fine layer of *Soil Building Conditioner* (3 cu ft covers 144 sq ft at ¼-inch thick).

Fertilize roses with *Portland Rose Society Fertilizer 15-10-10*.

Feed raspberries and other cane berries with a slow release, organic fertilizer such as *G&B Citrus & Fruit Tree Fertilizer*.

IN THE GARDEN SHED



Go through chemicals and fertilizers:

- Properly dispose of old/ineffectual products; check with local waste management or call Metro Facility for details
- Make a list of commonly used products to replenish

Go through old seeds: dispose of those that are too old to germinate (check package date).

Use *Moss Out* to kill moss on roofs/walkways (non-staining).

JUST FOR FUN



Near the end of the month, **plant some grass seed** to grow indoors for Easter decorations; young grass shoots should be up within a week or two.

FOR THE EDIBLE GARDEN



Plant vegetable crops: Broccoli, Kale, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Leeks, Lettuce, Onions (from seed or sets), Peas (Snow, Shelling, Snap), Radishes, Spinach, Swiss Chard

Plant perennial vegetables: Artichokes, Asparagus, Rhubarb

Plant sturdy perennial herbs: Chives, Lavender, Rosemary, Sage, Thyme

Protect new plantings from slugs with *Sluggo* or *Slug Magic*.

Use soil testing kits to measure N, P, K, and pH of soil to plan for its needs in the coming growing season.

Use a soil thermometer to check temperatures; okay to start planting at 40–45°F (cool-season crops).

Amend soil with *Harvest Supreme* or *Malibu Compost* to enrich soil and improve quality. Plow or turn in cover crops now; wait a few weeks before planting new crops.

Select potatoes and store in cool, dark area until soil warms up enough to plant (40–45°F).

Start tender crops from seed indoors: Tomatoes, Peppers, Squash, Eggplant

BASIC PRUNING LIST



Prune: Abelia, Pinus, evergreen Ferns, Pyracantha, Spiraea, Lavender, Mimosa, Rockrose, Witch Hazel Lilac, Aucuba, Twig Dogwood, Lonicera nitida, Beautyberry, Bluebeard, and ornamental grasses.

General rule of thumb: prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees after blossoms fade.

FOR THE INDOORS



March is the beginning of the active growing season for indoor plants—**now is a great time to repot!**

If repotting is not needed, refresh the soil: break up top layer with a fork, add thin layer of new soil or worm castings, and top with fine layer of fresh potting soil.

Avoid overwatering; water newly repotted plants cautiously.

Wipe down leaves with mild soapy water or neem oil.

Clean the outsides of containers and drainage saucers.