

Atlantic Region Garden Calendar

Zones 4-6b

January

- Inspect house plants for insects – hot dry conditions favor mites and mealy bug.
- Visit the library to take out a gardening book on a new topic.
- Order seed and plant catalogues.
- Plan the garden.
- Try growing Amaryllis (not fragrant) and Paperwhite narcissus (very fragrant).
- Start very slow growing seeds like geranium and begonia.
- Begin a garden journal for the year.
- Check your bulbs in storage and discard bad ones.
- Keep bird feeders clean and topped up.
- What's your favorite plant? Check online – you're bound to find a society dedicated to it!

February

- Order flower and vegetable seeds.
- Bring out bulbs prepared for forcing.
- Do winter pruning (apple, ash, conifers).
- Maples and birch will bleed in spring if pruned now.
- Check out dates for future garden events – shows and sales.
- Build bird houses.
- Keep bird feeders clean and topped up.
- Sharpen and repair garden tools.
- Keep your eyes and ears open for volunteer opportunities related to gardening.



March

- Repot houseplants in preparation for new growth.
- Order summer flowering bulbs.
- Check and repair garden tools.
- Force branches of spring flowering shrubs.
- Plan to add some native plants with berries to attract birds.
- Take geranium and fuchsia cuttings.
- Attend home and garden shows
- Keep bird feeders clean and topped up.
- Check mower blade for balance and sharpness.
- Get mower serviced.
- Wash pots, hanging baskets for reuse.
- Keep bird feeders clean and topped up.
- Invite your favorite garden friend over for a cuppa and compare notes on last year's garden.
- Visit a maple sap producer – the first sign of spring!
- Attend Canada Blooms or the Philadelphia International Flower Show

April

- Start hardy annuals for mid to late May planting.
- Start tomatoes, eggplant and peppers.
- Start tuberous begonias, Caladiums, Cannas and other tender container plants.
- Attend local plant and garden shows.
- Apply dormant oil sprays or lime sulphur when temperatures permit – follow the label instructions.
- Tuck frost heaved plants back into place.
- Sprinkle blood meal around emerging tulips to deter deer browsing.
- Put birdhouses in place.
- Mulch gardens with compost as plants begin to emerge.
- Remove deer protection.
- Seed peas, spinach, lettuce, beets, sweetpeas, marigold, pansy and calendula as soon as the ground can be worked.
- Rake lawn and clean debris from garden beds.
- Topdress lawn with .5 inch (2 cm) fine textured compost.
- Overseed bare spots in the lawn.
- Divide or transplant perennials as growth resumes.
- Pot up plants for your local plant sale.
- Set forced bulbs in desired locations in the garden. Plant deeper than they were in the pot!
- Collect fallen twigs and small branches and place at the bottom of the new compost pile.
- Collect leaves, grass, garden debris and begin compost.
- Prune shrubs grown for winter twigs.
- Make early visit to garden centre to get supplies.
- Keep bird feeders clean and topped up.
- Put out yarn holders for bird nesting material.
- Attend Orchid Association of Nova Scotia Spring Orchid Show in Halifax



May

- Start lawn mowing once grass height exceeds desired length (3" or 7 cm).
- Plant new woody and herbaceous perennials.
- Remove winter mulches, uncover roses and tender perennials.
- Harden off seedlings prior to setting out.
- Make notes and take pictures regarding ideas for more spring bulbs.
- Dead head bulbs as flowers fade unless collecting seed.
- Begin weeding lawn and gardens.
- Mulch while the soil is moist.
- Plant summer bulbs.
- Put out humming bird feeders.
 - Direct seed summer annuals, perennials.
 - If April was snowy and wet, you have a lot to do now!
 - Keep bird feeders clean and topped up.
 - Check the date of the last full moon in May and in June – if they are late in both months, there



should be no more frost after the May one. Use it as a planting guide for tender plants.

- Plan to attend Master Gardener Summer School.

June

- Watch for aphids on roses and pine needle sawfly.
- Plant summer bulbs and tender plants.
- Prune shrubs and trees after flowering.
- Prune evergreens and the candles on pines (before the buds form on the tips).
- Put plant stakes and cages in place.
- Thin seedlings.
- Deadhead faded blooms.
- Weed beds regularly.
- Take cuttings of shrubs and perennials.
- Begin to watch for lily leaf beetle.
- Topdress lawn with .5 inch (2 cm) fine textured compost.
- Begin garden centre forays with friends.
- Plant and place containers for summer display.
- Begin preparations for open garden day.
- Clean bird feeders and put away, or keep topped up.
- Make second sowing of radish and spinach.
- Set out slug and snail traps.



July

- Raise mowing height to 4" or 8 – 10 cm to reduce heat stress of turf.
- Fertilize roses, perennials and annuals with low formulation fertilizers.
- Deadhead faded blooms.
- Keep ahead of the weeds.
- Set out slug and snail traps.
- Watch for lily leaf beetle, slugs, aphids, iris borer.
 - Thin perennial phlox to prevent mildew.
 - Prune climbing roses.
 - Prune pines before the candles set terminal buds.
 - Trim back strawberry plants after fruiting, and remove raspberry canes as they finish fruiting.
 - Moisten compost piles.
 - Ensure containers are kept moist, fertilized.
 - Pinch asters, chrysanthemums, and dahlias to increase blossoming and reduce plant size.
 - Swing on the swing or lay in the hammock.
 - Watch for sawfly larvae on pine and deciduous plants.
 - Order spring bulbs – early is best to avoid disappointment.
 - Attend Master Gardener Summer School
 - Attend garden events to glean new ideas.
- Cut back straggly annuals, ribbon grass.
- Try rooting cuttings from your roses and clematis.





August

- Set out slug and snail traps.
- Transplant flowering cabbage or kale to garden location.
- Avoid mowing lawn to less than 3 " or 7 cm.
- Trade zucchini recipes with friends.
- Keep ahead of the weeds.
- Moisten compost piles.
- Harvest herbs and flowers for drying.
- Barley straw clears algae from ponds.
- Begin collecting seed from desirable plants.
- Attend garden events to glean new ideas.
- Make second sowing of peas and lettuces.

September

- Divide bearded iris and peony.
- Plant perennials and biennials.
- Plant trees and shrubs.
- Plant autumn seasonal plants.
- Bring in houseplants if you put them out for summer. Mist to keep up humidity.
- Monitor indoor plants for insects. Mites and aphids move inside with the plants.
- Aerate lawn and over seed.
- Seed damaged lawn areas or lay down new sod.
- Create a fall container for your front entrance.
- Pull annuals as they fade and place in compost piles.
- Plant autumn flowering crocus.
- Prune maples.
- Water evergreens and broadleaf evergreens in preparation for winter.



October



- Place net over pond to keep out blowing leaves.
 - Plant spring flowering bulbs.
 - Dig summer flowering bulbs as soon as the frost has touched them.
 - Mulch vegetable garden with compost.
 - Rake leaves and add to the new compost piles.
 - Put tree bands and gypsy moth traps in place to reduce defoliation of trees the next summer.
 - Dig and prepare new garden beds for next year.
 - Pot up bulbs for forcing and place in cold storage.
 - Service the snowblower.
 - Stop feeding outdoor fish.
 - Water evergreens and broadleaf evergreens in preparation for winter.
 - Mulch shrub beds, roses, and tender plants.
- Put bird feeders in place.
 - Attend Master Gardener Annual fall Workshop

November

- Put away garden furniture, decorative items.
- Put deer netting in place.
- Drain and store garden hoses.
- Put up winter lights while it's still not too bad outside.
- Sit down and make notes of all the things you want to start or do differently next year.
- Remove tree bands and gypsy moth traps.
- Check summer bulbs are dry and ready to pack away for winter.
- Replace autumn display container with a winter one.
- Keep bird feeders clean and topped up.
- Hill up tender roses and protect wind sensitive plants.
- Mulch tender perennials for winter.
- Wait until the ground freezes to place winter mulch around woody plants.
- Pot up bulbs for winter forcing and place in cool place (3-4°C) for 14 weeks.



December

- Gather garden pictures and notes together for next month's planning session.
- Catch up on your garden reading.
- Follow the links on the Master Gardener Web site.
- Put your garden wishes on your Christmas list.
- If need be, put gardening out of your mind and take a break!



Timing of activities may vary with geographic location within the Atlantic region.

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Trained and dedicated volunteers across the Atlantic region, providing free expert horticultural advice to home gardeners.

For more information, visit www.atlanticmastergardeners.com

