

What to do in your garden

Happy March, spring is here! When it's not raining, it's the perfect time to work in the garden and get some great fresh air.

Divide perennials that grew too big last year (or are big enough to spare) and move them to an area that's in need of some colour.

Achilleas, Day Lillies, Sedum and daisy headed perennials are plant types that can also be separated. Dig a 20 to 30 per cent bigger hole than the plant and scatter in some bonemeal. This will really help them take root quicker and give you healthier plants. Add fresh compost around the roots and gently but firmly heel in. Once planted, water straight away (make a raised ring of compost around the plant to hold the water in) and all will establish within weeks. Make sure it's a warm, sunny day with no frost due.

Give the lawn a weed and feed (with moss killer) to give it a good start to the new growing year. Don't let it touch your border plants or hard standings, such as slabs. It will kill anything other than grasses and stain your paths orange! Wait for the moss to die and go black, and make sure no frost or heavy rains are due. Then cut, rake away, cut, rake away, and again, rake away or scarify and cut etc.

Top dress this with lawn soil/sand if needed (to

level), then scatter grass seed in two different directions for a great lawn. But remember for every hand full, a third goes to the birds.

Shrubs that will be coming into their own this month will either be brightly coloured, or highly scented flowers. These are to attract the small number of bees and insects out at this time of year. Perfect spring shrubs are the Japanese quince and Forsythia, both of which can also be cut for flowers for the house. Just prune one or two stems, whilst still in tight buds. Within days, these boring long stems in a vase will be flushed with beautiful flowers, and if you have the quince, then your home will smell fantastic as well. Daffodils will be abundant, so make sure to place them in their own vase, or they will kill any other companions. Happy Mother's Day! Cut down grasses, Fuchsias and some Hydrangeas (Paniculatas only, deadhead others)

Prune summer-flowering shrubs like Buddleja, hardy Fuchsia, dogwoods and Hydrangea Paniculatas. Continue to clear away the dead around perennials, cut down grasses and all dead old growth and new growth may be emerging. Next month, think manure, and cleaning your hardstanding. If you are not sure where to start, give Fleurscape a ring. We offer consultations for all eager to improve their view.



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