



Month by Month Garden & Landscape Calendar

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Spring

March

- Prune trees and shrubs that were damaged over winter, remove black knots from plum and cherry trees, shape late-flowering shrubs (blooming July or later) and finish dormant pruning of fruit, oak, elm and ornamental trees. Visit our website for pruning tips and instruction.
- Start planning gardens and containers for the approaching growing season.
- Keep snow and or mulch on beds to protect tender new growth from freezing night temperatures.
- Apply a conservative dose of fertilizer to your indoor plants.
- Give your garden a head start! Start select seeds indoors, during March or April depending on varieties.
- Cut back smokebush, elderberry, butterfly bush, hardy hibiscus, and Russian sage to just a few inches above ground level at an outward facing bud.
- Beat the rush! Call now to set up a site visit with a designer. Visit our landscaping page for all the information on design/site visits.
- Therapy for cabin fever. Force some spring blooming tree and shrub branches indoors. Pussy willow, forsythia, crabapple and magnolia are fun to try. Cut and place in a vase of water.
- Continue to fill bird feeders as migrating birds are beginning to return and food sources are scarce this time of year. Do you landscape/garden for wildlife? Share a picture with us on Facebook. We may feature your hard work in one of our blogs!

April

- Begin planting trees, shrubs and vines once the soil can be worked. We have planting videos on our website to help you.
- Clean and sharpen your garden tools. Have your lawn mower serviced.
- As spring flowering bulbs begin to emerge feed them with a balanced fertilizer like Miracle-Gro. Follow package instructions for proper use.
- Uncover or pull back mulch from roses, spring blooming bulbs and perennials. Be prepared to cover them again on cold nights to protect tender new growth.
- Re-mulch planting beds for weed control and to prevent the soil from drying out so quickly. We carry 5 different earth, plant and animal safe mulches in bulk and in bags for your convenience. Bring your open bed truck/trailer and we'll load it for you, or, have us deliver bulk mulch/premium soil mix right to your driveway.
- Prune dead canes from raspberries. Thin to 5 or 6 canes per foot to allow good air circulation and minimize overcrowding.
- Seed new lawn areas or repair bare spots.
- Fertilize woody plants like trees, shrubs and evergreens with Osmocote time release fertilizer. Follow package instructions for proper use.
- Trim hedges and summer blooming shrubs **before** the new growth appears.
- Cool season annuals and vegetables may be planted like pansies, dianthus, onions, cabbage, peas, broccoli.
- Prepare your beds for planting with amendments like Cowsmo Composted Cow Manure and/or Sphagnum Peat Moss once the soil can be worked. We have both of these available for sale in bags for your convenience.
- Clean out blue bird, martin and wood duck houses and provide food, water and nesting material for migrating birds.
- Divide and replant perennials that bloom in mid-summer or later as soon as they show signs of new growth: Asters, daylilies, sedums.
- Once snow has melted, rake the lawn and cut back old perennial growth including ornamental grasses. – The Northfield Compost Site opens April 12th
- Use crabgrass preventer on established lawns. Apply a pre-emergent like Preen Weed Preventer to help minimize weed growth in shrub and perennial beds.
- Start filling hummingbird feeders.
- After April 15th, do not prune oak or elm trees until hard frosts return in the fall.

May

- Prune spring flowering shrubs like forsythia, rhododendron and lilac as needed, immediately **after** they have **finished flowering**.
- This is a great time to prune maples. Visit our website for pruning instructions.
- Overseed, repair and feed your lawn.
- Remove leaf debris etc. that may have collected over the winter under evergreens and shrubs.
- If you haven't done it yet fertilize woody plants like trees, shrubs and evergreens with Osmocote time release fertilizer. Follow package instructions for proper use.
- Protect your gardens from pest damage by applying deterrents/repellents like Liquid Fence or ShakeAway

- Begin spraying fruit trees after the blossoms drop. We recommend Bonide's Fruit Tree Spray. Follow package instructions for proper use.
- Begin to harden off plants that have been indoors, early-started seedlings, and purchased plants so they are ready when the weather warms.
- Plant warm season annuals and vegetables in the ground after fear of frost has past. Around May 15th in our area. Be prepared to cover them if the weather turns cold. **We carry only premium, locally grown annuals, vegetables and baskets for premium results.**
- Plant spring bulbs and tuber plants like gladiolus, cannas, caladiums and dahlias.
- Move /divide any perennials that outgrew their space last season.
- Apply a pre-emergent like Preen Weed Preventer to help minimize weed growth in shrub and planting beds after they have been planted. Follow package instructions for proper usage.
- Continue preparing garden beds by forking or tilling them over, removing weeds as you go. Do when soil is dry to avoid lumps.
- Install new garden beds, enlarge and improve established ones. We highly recommend our premium soil mix for all new plantings.
- Amend your planting areas with Organic Cowsmo Composted Cow Manure and Sphagnum Peat Moss We have both available for sale in bags for your convenience.
- Don't mow the lawn any shorter than 2"
- Put supports around peonies and taller perennials that have a tendency to flop as they grow.
- Clean out water gardens.

Summer

June

- Move mower blades up to 3".
- Plant cold sensitive plants like pumpkins, cucumbers, sweet potato vine, tomatoes, begonia and coleus. Beans and marigolds can be direct sown now. When we have an early spring soil temps may warm enough for these varieties by May 20th.
- Begin staking tomato plants while they are still young to help prevent disease.
- Continue regular watering of newly planted material and supplemental watering as needed for established plantings.
- Don't forget to deadhead as flowers fade to keep planters, baskets and beds looking neat and fresh.
- Weed regularly to stay ahead of them. They are easier to keep up with if you pull or cultivate them when they are small. We sell Roundup and Weed-B-Gon products to aid in weed control. Follow package instructions for proper use.
- Continue to prune, as needed, spring blooming trees and shrubs as they finish blooming. Check out our website for how to pruning tips.
- Trim hedge plants to shape as needed.
- Prune most evergreens in early to mid-June.
- Make sure climbing plants are securely attached to their supports or trellises.
- Pine and spruce trees may be pruned once their new growth (candles) have fully extended but while they are still tender.
- Pinch chrysanthemums, phlox, asters and Russian sage to promote dense, compact plants with lots of flowers.
- Thin your vegetable rows.
- Provide support stakes for taller varieties of perennials like delphiniums, hollyhock and heliopsis. We like to use green bamboo stakes.
- Re-mulch any beds that still need it. We carry 5 kinds of earth, plant and animal safe mulches in bulk and in bags for your convenience. Need a lot? We deliver!
- Keep an eye out for insect and disease issues throughout your landscape. They are always easier to take care of when they are tended to promptly. Don't forget you may find some insects that are beneficial. If you do find you have a pest or disease issue bring in a sample when you come so we can better identify the problem and recommend the proper solution.
- Start spraying for black spot on roses, and the lawn for broadleaf weeds. We recommend Bonide's Fungonil for black spot on roses. Follow package instructions for proper use.
- Pick rhubarb for the last time at the end of this month.
- Feed your flower gardens and container plantings throughout the growing season with water soluble Miraclegro.

July

- Continue to dead head regularly to keep things looking tidy and to encourage flowering.
- Bring outdoors in. Cut flowers that can be enjoyed indoors. Let us and our followers enjoy them too! Share a picture of your flower bouquet with us on Facebook.
- Check for weeds often to keep beds looking their best. We sell Roundup and Weed-B-Gon products to aid in weed control. Follow package instructions for proper use.
- Time to turn the compost pile.
- Pick your vegetables as they come on. Try picking things like zucchini when they are young, tender and sweet. Donate extra produce that you are unable to use to a local food shelf or shelter. What do you do with your harvest? Share it with us on Facebook!
- Continue to regularly water any plants that are not fully established. Visit our website for detailed watering instructions.
- Stake perennials that require additional support to perform properly.
- Cut down foliage from spring blooming bulbs as it browns. Dig, divide and replant any spring blooming bulbs that didn't perform well. When replanting bulbs be sure to add bone meal to promote strong root development.
- Storm and vacation damage!?! We have all kinds of quick fixes and solutions to help you "spruce up" your planters, gardens and landscapes.
- Check your mulch depth and top dress where necessary. We carry 5 earth, plant and animal safe mulches in bulk and in bags for your convenience. Bring your open bed truck/trailer and we'll load it for you, or, have us deliver bulk mulch/premium soil mix right to your driveway.
- Trim hedge plants to maintain clean lines and density.
- Prune ornamental trees and shrubs that have finished blooming as needed. Visit our website for how to pruning information.

- Inspect your gardens/landscapes for pest and/or disease damage. Don't forget certain insects are beneficial. If you do find you have a pest or disease issue bring in a sample when you come so we can better identify the problem and recommend the proper solution.
- Get on our list! Plan to have some work done on your property this season? July is a great time to get the ball rolling contact us and set up a site visit. There will be plenty of time to complete projects.

August

- Plants will begin to harden off before winters' arrival. Reduce fertilizer on perennials, shrubs and trees to allow them to prepare for dormancy.
- Divide spring blooming perennials. (Iris-every 3-4 years, lily of the valley, bleeding heart – don't divide peonies until October)
- This is the best time of year to seed grass. Seed thin or dead areas of the lawn between August 15th and September 15th. Keeping the seed well watered will ensure good germination.
- Indoor plants that have been outside for the growing season should be moved to shadier locations to help them prepare for the lower light levels once they are brought back inside.
- Begin to check for insects on plants that will be moved indoors. Much easier to address them outdoors than in.
- Turn your compost pile.
- Continue regular watering of perennials, shrubs and trees that were newly planted this growing season. Visit our website for detailed watering instructions.
- Do not prune plants that are susceptible to rusts (apple, crabapple and mountain ash) as many rusts are releasing spores from mid-summer through fall.
- Enjoy it and show it off! Take a picture of your garden or landscape and share it with us on Facebook! You have worked hard share your results with us and our friends! Maybe we'll feature your hard work in one of our blogs.
- This is the time to start collecting seeds from your garden.
- Continue to harvest fruits and vegetables as they ripen and herbs for fresh use and for drying. What do you make with all your fresh herbs and veggies? Share your favorite recipes with us!
- Needle drop on arborvitae, spruce, pine and fir will begin this time of year, and continue into October.
- Plan for planting spring blooming bulbs.
- Plant cool season fall crops now, for example, spinach, lettuce and peas.
- Continue to deadhead annuals to encourage blooming.

Autumn

September

- Fall is for planting! This is a great time to plant trees, shrubs, evergreens and perennials. Take advantage of the cooler temperatures and the head start on next years' growing season by planting now! – Check out our planting videos at knechts.net
- It's time to plant spring blooming bulbs (tulips, daffodils, crocus, hyacinth). Help your bulbs develop strong roots by adding bonemeal at planting time.
- Protect annuals and tender plants from frost so that you may continue to enjoy them later into the season. Use old bed sheets.
- Once we receive a hard frost, dig up tubers and bulbs of any non-hardy plants for winter storage. Cannas, begonias, elephant ear & gladiolas are examples.
- Remove and replace frost damaged or tired annuals and replace them with vibrant color and texture. We have mums, grasses, kale, heuchera and hypericum to dress up those borders and planters for fall.
- Remove vegetable plants as they pass their prime or are killed by frost.
- Determine where your garden/landscape could use some late season color/texture. We can help! Let us suggest ways to dress up a problem area or for a special event.
- Install sod and keep it well watered or seed/overseed lawns early this month.
- Aerate and dethatch established lawns.
- Don't skimp on watering. Regular watering through the fall will help plants prepare for winter.
- If you feed birds in the winter it is time to set up your feeders. Feeding year around is even better for the birds.
- Check house plants for insects before moving them back indoors. You may want to treat with insecticidal soap preventatively. Be sure to move them inside before our nights begin to dip below 50 degrees.
- Wrap the trunks of trees that still have young, tender or thin bark with white tree wraps. Once a tree begins to produce thicker, textured bark they are better able to protect themselves from pest damage and frost cracking. We have many products available in all different shapes and sizes to make it easy for you to protect your trees.
- Put out bird feeders and start to fill them regularly.
- Keep up with those weeds. Although they may be turning brown and withering they still have the ability to spread seed and regrow next spring. Removing them now will keep you ahead of the game.

October

- Complete fall bulb planting. Don't forget bone meal to encourage strong root development.
- Keep mowing the lawn as needed. Lower the mower height so that the grass is short when snow begins to fall. This will help prevent fungal disease issues in the spring.
- Divide peonies after a hard frost into clumps containing 3-5 eyes. Replant them no deeper than 1-2".
- Work soil amendments into your planting beds now so they are ready for spring. We recommend Organic Cowsmo Composted Cow Manure. Fall tillage always makes for nicer, lump free seedbeds in spring.

- Continue to water trees and shrubs until the ground freezes. Visit our website for detailed watering instructions.
- Apply winter mulch to keep beds frozen and protect the crowns of plants from freeze/thaw damage. You want them to freeze and stay frozen. We carry 5 earth, plant and animal safe mulches in bulk and in bags for your convenience. Need a lot? We deliver!
- Rake leaves to minimize lawn disease.
- Remove dead annuals.
- Move clay pots into a dry location to prevent cracking.
- Turn over bird bath basins or make the birds really happy and put in a bird bath heater to keep water available all winter.

November

- Clean off and put away garden tools, hoses, and garden furniture so that they aren't damaged by winter weather.
- Remove garden debris to prevent/minimize disease and insect issues. – The Northfield Compost Site closes November 10th
- Mulch perennial crowns once we have an inch or two of frost in the ground. We carry 5 earth, plant and animal safe mulches in bulk and bags for your convenience. Need a lot? We deliver!
- Clean out eaves and downspouts.
- Make sure that new plantings are well watered until the ground freezes
- Begin dormant pruning of ornamentals, fruit trees, oaks and elms. Visit our website for pruning information.
- Fill birdfeeders regularly
- Use cuttings of red twig dogwood, a few selectively pruned evergreen boughs or berry laden branches to dress up a planter for the winter season, such as winterberry, bittersweet or highbush cranberry.

Winter

December

- White with snow outside? Keep cabin fever at bay by signing up for our e-newsletter or like us on Facebook! It will provide you with timely, seasonally appropriate reminders, great ideas, professional knowledge and advice.
- Make sure that as the snow gets deeper the tree wraps come up high enough to continue to protect your young and thin-barked trees from pest damage.
- Gently brush heavy snow loads off of flexible evergreen branches to prevent damage.
- Use chicken wire to protect shrubs from rodent damage.
- Indoor plants benefit from dusting the leaves with a damp sponge or a quick spray in the shower. Control insect pests with insecticidal soap.
- If you enjoy a live cut tree indoors over the holidays, consider placing it somewhere in your landscape for the remainder of the winter to provide shelter for birds.
- Does your landscape celebrate the holidays? Share a picture of you winter or decorated landscape with us! We may feature your “winter wonderland” in one of our blogs!

January

- Be sure to use de-icers that are safe for plants.
- Clean, purchase and prepare your equipment for seed starting.
- Don't forget to fill your birdfeeders regularly.
- Order gardening and seed catalogs to look through for inspirational ideas.
- Visit knechts.net for information and inspiration!
- Cut back on the water you give to your houseplants.
- Take note of where your landscape could use more winter interest and plan to make those changes/additions in the upcoming growing season.
- Identify a “problem” area in your garden/landscape and come up with a way to fix it. Need help? Call to set up a site visit with one of our knowledgeable designers to help you problem solve!

February

- Pile extra snow over perennials and shrubs if we have low amounts of snow cover to prevent freezing and thawing as much as possible.
- Inspect houseplants for insect issues.
- Check tubers and bulbs that you may have in storage. If they have begun to sprout pot them up and keep them in a bright location.
- Start planting any seeds that benefit from starting early.
- Contact us to set up an onsite visit with one of our designers for help organizing your ideas, problem solving, or to design a feature for your outdoor environment that can be installed this season or overtime.