



SPRING SEASONAL TIPS



MARCH



- If you are brave, you can plant some annuals now. For quick color, use primroses and pansies that are available. Plant clusters for better color. You may want to wait another month to avoid a late freeze.
- Don't touch the Magnolia! Wait for the bloom and then shape and thin as needed. Avoid any topping of valuable landscape trees.
- Overgrown rhododendrons can be pruned now with a sharp saw 2 to 3 feet from the ground. You may not get blooms this year, but by midsummer you will be very pleased with the new appearance of the plant.
- Start mowing the grass again this month so it doesn't get out of control. Mow shorter in the spring at about 1 1/2 inches. This will help cleanup winter damage from frost and possibly snow, plus help decrease disease activity.
- If you have bare spots in your lawn, scratch up the soil and apply seed and fertilizer. Cover with mulch and within a few weeks the seed will germinate without any effort. This will make for a better lawn.

APRIL

- You can begin to plant annuals for the cutting garden. Visit your local garden center to pick out your favorites and to try something new. The most important part of the annual and perennial planting is the preparation of the soil. Use compost, peat moss and sand to loosen up the soil before planting.
- Your tulips are through blooming. Let them dry a bit and dig them out when the foliage is completely dried up. Plant them again in the fall.
- Your spring blooming plants should be pruned and shaped at this time.
- During this second organic lawn fertility treatment you can also treat the moss if the weather remains cool and wet. Treat any remaining moss before it becomes too warm so the lawn does not become stressed.
- If your lawn didn't make it through the winter well, now is the time to consider over-seeding or complete lawn replacement. This is a big job, so don't be afraid to seek some professional assistance.
- Start Baiting for slugs: We prefer using herbs like Rosemary and mint, or crushed egg shells around the plants you want to protect. Another environmentally safe alternative is a small bowl with stale beer or grape juice to attract and drown the slugs. Organic or natural slug baits are available. Check to make sure they are safe for pets. Read the label.



MAY

- Deadhead your rhododendrons, azaleas and Andromeda or any other plant with large flowers.
- Your irrigation system should be started up and ready to go. In Oregon, you should start your system running in mid-May until around mid-October. No need to start prior to that unless you need to water the annuals.
- Some of your bulbs should be through blooming. Cut off the old flower stems and tie up the rest of the plant to give it a clean look.
- Keep mowing that grass. You will need to get the mower out there at least once per week. By the end of the month you will want to set the mowing height at 2 1/2 inches. This is great material to add to your compost pile in addition to the spent blooms from the plants.
- A good aeration and lime application for your lawn will help move the pH level back to neutral. This will help the lawn to make better use of the fertilizer and water. Keep on the weeds. If you didn't apply a pre-emergent you will be spending a lot of time in the beds with the hoe.
- Keep baiting the slugs. There should be lots out there after a wet winter.

