



March Garden Tips

- As a rule of thumb, start most seeds six to eight weeks before your region's last frost date. So that means starting tomatoes, peppers, marigolds, cosmos, and others early this month.
- It is still possible to do dormant spraying of fruit trees until the 15th, after that date dilute the spray by 1/2. Spraying should be done on a still day with the temperature above 40° F.
- Fertilize shrubs and trees if this wasn't done in February.
- There is often a strong temptation to start removing winter mulches from your flower beds. WAIT!!! Pull the mulch off gradually as the plants show signs of new growth. The purpose of winter mulch is to act as a protector from sudden changes of temperature and chilling winds, so keep in mind that it is still winter. Acclimatize your plants by removing the mulch over a period of days, allowing the light and air to reach the new growth slowly. It is much better to remove the mulch a little later than to remove it too early.
- Roses can be pruned this month. Severe pruning results in nicer long stemmed flowers and more compact bushes.
- Begin to spray roses for blackspot. Fertilize roses.
- Divide and transplant summer blooming perennials and fertilize established ones as soon as new growth appears.
- Cut back established penstemons. Divide snowdrops while in leaf