



# March- Tips and Tasks



## Top Priorities

- **Soil Preparation**
  - Begin preparing your soil by adding compost or well-rotted manure. This sets the foundation for healthy plant growth.
- **Pruning**
  - Trim away dead or damaged branches from shrubs and trees. This encourages new growth as spring approaches.
  - Prune Ornamental Grasses/Herbaceous Perennials
  - English roses should be cut back to 4-5 stems. Other roses should be pruned according to their type
- **Early Planting**
  - Start planting cool-season crops like lettuce, spinach, and peas. Check local frost dates to avoid unexpected cold spells.
  - Plant indoor seeds for annuals and vegetables.



## Next Steps

- **Weed Control**
  - Tackle weeds early to prevent them from competing with emerging plants. Mulch can help suppress weed growth.
- **Fertilizing**
  - Add plant nutrition by fertilizing ornamental grasses when they show signs of growth, as well as Clematis, Camellias and summer flowering bulbs.
- **Dividing Perennials**
  - Divide overcrowded perennials for healthier plants. Replant or share divided segments with other gardeners.
- **Mulching**
  - Apply a layer of mulch around established plants to retain soil moisture and regulate temperature





## Better Impact

- **Tool Maintenance**
  - Sharpen garden tools and ensure they are in good condition for the upcoming growing season.
- **Plan for Pollinators**
  - Choose plants that attract pollinators like bees and butterflies. Consider adding a pollinator-friendly section to your garden.
- **Early Blooms**
  - Introduce early-blooming flowers like crocuses and daffodils for a burst of color. These also provide essential nectar for pollinators.



## Extras

- Resources for spring gardening help: from Virginia Cooperative Extension's online resources:
  - Virginia Home Garden Vegetable Guide  
<https://ext.vt.edu/lawn-garden/home-vegetables.html>
  - Creating inviting habitats for Birds/ Butterflies:  
[https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs\\_ext\\_vt\\_edu/HORT/HORT-59/HORT-59-PDF.pdf](https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/HORT/HORT-59/HORT-59-PDF.pdf)
  - Rain Harvesting:  
[https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs\\_ext\\_vt\\_edu/426/426-046/426-046-PDF.pdf](https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/426/426-046/426-046-PDF.pdf)
  - Making Compost:  
<https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-703/426-703.html>
- Visit Local Nurseries, Garden Centers and Garden Clubs



Embrace the arrival of spring  
by following these tips and  
watch your garden come to life!