



Gardening Jobs in March

- With warmer weather the weeds will start to grow so make sure that any bare soil is covered with a layer of mulch such as bark chips.
- Cut back any perennial plants that were left over winter. Make sure that you don't damage any new growth. Divide any plants that have got too big.
- March is a good month to start a compost heap if you haven't already got one.
- Prepare your beds by covering with fleece or cloches to warm the soil ready for planting in later in the month.
- It's time to get planting – whether it's new borders or just filling in gaps left after the cold winter, March is the start of the planting season and there will be lots of lovely new plant stock in the garden centre.
- Plant summer flowering bulbs such as lilies and gladioli – they hate having soggy roots so add a handful of coarse grit in the planting hole.
- Seed sowing – as the soil warms it's time to get sowing: lettuce, salad leaves, radish, turnips, beetroot, salad onions and broad beans can all be sown in March. You can also sow hardy annuals too.
- Plant your first early potatoes once they have shoots an inch or so long. Second earlies can go in at the end of the month.
- If you have already sown veg seeds under glass you can start to plant them out from the end of March – make sure you harden them off first and provide some protection with cloches or tunnels.
- Feed established trees and shrubs, especially after you have finished pruning. Use sulphate of potash (35g / sq m) on your fruit trees and shrubs or fish, blood and bone (70g / sq m) on ornamentals.
- The grass will start to grow as the weather gets milder – first cuts should be made with the mower on a high setting. It's also good to give the lawn a treat by raking out any moss and thatch if you didn't do it in autumn. If you have moss then an application of lawn sand will kill it off. Drainage can be improved by aerating with a hollow tined aerator or garden fork followed by an application of sharp sand.
- If you don't have a water feature then it's a good time to add one to your garden. They come in all shapes and sizes from small patio features through to large ornamental or wildlife ponds. Water in the garden adds a focal point and also helps to attract wildlife.
- With existing ponds you might need to divide your marginal plants if they have got too big. Make sure that you use aquatic compost and suitable baskets topped off with gravel. Start to feed fish with small amounts of food.
- If you want some early spring colour then refresh planted containers with plants such as primroses and pansies. You can add some permanent planting with small conifers and evergreens such as variegated euonymus. Use John Innes No3 compost for containers.

This information is intended for guidance purposes only. We are happy to give help and advice on most gardening topics at the garden centre.

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