

SHELMERDINE

SPRING GARDENING CHECKLIST

- Top dress and re-seed the lawn. Once the warm temperatures start and rainfall wakens up the lawn, top dress and fertilize to choke out weeds.
- Harden off seedlings. Toughen up your seedlings by acclimatizing them to being outside. Only transplant them into the garden after threat of frost has past.
- Amend the soil in your planting beds. This simply means adding more of the good stuff (i.e. compost, zeolite, peat moss and/or manure). This will help your plants thrive and make planting easier.
- Give your flowerbeds a fresh new edging by running an edger or spacer along the perimeter. Consider installing lawn edging to make mowing easier.
- Install a rain barrel to collect runoff from eavestroughs. Use this to water your plants.
- Plant tomato and pepper plants once soil temperatures reach 17°C.
- Fertilize daffodils, crocuses and tulips after flowering. Cut back expired blossoms.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs (such as forsythia and lilacs) right after they finish blooming.
- Divide mature perennials such as phlox, stonecrop, iris and beebalm as needed.
- Stake tall perennials such as peonies, delphiniums and bellflowers.
- Visit your local garden centre. New varieties of annuals sell out quickly.
- Shrub roses will now be showing winter die-back. Prune the branches just below the visible die-back.
- Take advantage of free gardening seminars and trade shows.
- Essential spring plants include: Bulb - Tulip (*Tulipa* spp. and cvs.)
Perennial - Peony (*Paeonia* spp. and cvs.), Shrub - Lilac (*Syringa* cvs.)
Tree - Juliet Cherry Tree