



# EARLY SPRING *gardening checklist*



- REMOVE WINTER DEBRIS.** Gently rake leaves and other brush from shrub and flower beds. Work carefully around tender emerging shoots. Trim browned foliage of ornamental grasses and perennials.
- INSPECT TREES, SHRUBS, AND PERENNIALS** for winter damage and heaving. Remove damaged or dead wood and tamp down shrubs and perennials that have heaved out of the ground, exposing roots.
- PRUNE TREES AND SHRUBS.** Evergreens and deciduous summer-flowering shrubs can be pruned and shaped in early spring before new growth occurs to maintain size and remove dead branches.
- REJUVENATE THE SOIL.** Apply a topdressing of 2-3" of compost and work it into the soil to add nutrients and improve the drainage and texture of your soil. Take care not to damage plant roots.
- APPLY PRE-EMERGENT WEED CONTROL.** Remove perennial weeds and annual weeds that sprouted over winter. Prevent new weed seeds from germinating by applying a pre-emergent weed preventer now.
- CLEAN AND MAINTAIN GARDEN EQUIPMENT.** Clean metal tools with steel wool or a wire brush. Sharpen the blades of digging and pruning tools. Check watering cans and hoses for holes.
- PLAN FOR NEW GARDEN PLANTINGS.** Walk your garden to map out your needs and help you choose plants that will be successful in your space. Note the light, water & soil conditions and available space in your planting areas.
- DIG AND DIVIDE PERENNIALS.** To manage size, rejuvenate, and make more plants, divide spring- and summer-blooming perennials early in the season when they're not yet in bloom.
- START SEEDS INDOORS.** Most flower and veggie seeds can be started four to six weeks before the date of the last frost in your zone. Check seed packets for specific planting instructions.