



MARCH

TO-DO LIST

- Aerate lawns to revitalize grass. Overseed bare spots. Eliminate moss by liming, improving drainage and creating more light through judicious pruning.
- Or, sow seed or lay turf for your new lawn. The best grass seed for coastal gardens is a mixture of 60 percent perennial rye and a 40 percent blend of creeping red fescue and blue grass.
- If crows and skunks have damaged your lawn in their search for chafer beetles, consider an alternative: low-maintenance ground cover such as heather, ornamental grass, sedum, thyme and blue star creeper.
- Divide large clumps of perennials by lifting and cutting them into two or more pieces. Replant immediately.
- Clean up ornamental grasses, cutting summer-flowering varieties to the ground and giving cool-season varieties a haircut.
- When you see forsythia in bloom, do the final pruning of hybrid tea and floribunda roses.
- Put down organic mulch to improve soil structure and to reduce moisture loss through evaporation in summer.
- Plant new perennials, shrubs, hedges, vines and trees, some of which will already be in bloom.
- Plant bare-root roses. You'll already find a good selection at garden centres.
- Buy and plant a rhododendron. Pick out your favourite from the many you'll see in bloom from now until the end of May.
- Sow radishes, spinach, fennel, parsley, cauliflower, cabbage, potatoes, broccoli and carrots.
- Eliminate weeds and hunt for slugs; these are two chores that will pay major dividends later.