

Spring Gardening Reminders

Preparing for spring gardening is something all gardeners can do before the big rush to planting season. Below are some tips and reminders:

- Start slow germinating seeds such as geranium and begonia in January. Order vegetable and flower seeds for planting in February / March
- Prepare gardening tools by cleaning & organizing. If you don't have a potting shed, have hand tools at the ready in a basket that can be easily carried. Position soaker hoses in beds before perennials and ground covers start growing. Have plant supports ready
- Start tomato plants indoors in mid to late March and other flower and vegetable seeds as per package directions
- Start tender perennials such as tuberous begonias, canna and calla lilies in pots in February / March
- Prepare custom fertilizers
- Prune summer flowering shrubs including removing dead wood
- Remove dead wood from roses and cut back the very thin branches. Collect blackspot affected leaves from around roses before the spring rains
- Cut back Annabelle & Pee Gee hydrangeas by half
- Shorten stems of Spirea (Anthony Waterer, Bumalda, Goldflame, Gold Mound and Little Princess) by 2/3
- Cut back last year's Clematis growth before buds break
- Place Peony rings before growth begins
- As soon as the ground is workable, place well rotted manure or organic compost over the vegetable garden, if this was not done in the fall season
- Moss growing in the lawns is often caused by the acidic Haliburton county soil. This problem can be naturally eradicated by spreading gardeners lime 3 times per year (follow package directions). There are chemicals that can be used to kill the moss but this will totally eradicate the problem over a 2-3 year period without harming the soil, birds or animals.