

# Canadian Gardening

## Early-spring gardening checklist

- As days get longer, start feeding indoor plants with a fertilizer solution at 1/2 the recommended strength.
- Start seeds for annuals, tomatoes and peppers indoors.
- Give summer-flowering bulbs, such as cannas and dahlias, a head start by potting indoors under lights until after the last frost date.
- Clean up fallen twigs, branches and other winter debris.
- As soon as the ground is workable, plant cool-weather crops such as sweet peas, onions, cabbage, radishes and leeks.
- Prune deciduous trees and shrubs (except those that flower or flow with sap in spring).
- Spray scale-infested trees and shrubs with dormant oil before their leaves appear.
- Cut the stems of 'Annabelle' hydrangea back to the ground.
- Apply slow-release fertilizer to flowering shrubs and vines, including roses, rhododendrons and clematis.
- Pull out annual and perennial weeds when they appear in the garden.

## Essential early-spring plants:

- ❁ Bulb: Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*)
- ❁ Perennial: Hellebore (*Helleborus x hybridus*)
- ❁ Shrub: Forsythia (*Forsythia x intermedia*)
- ❁ Tree: Saucer magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangeana*)

## Tip:

To prevent soil compaction, wait until the soggy ground of early spring has dried out before walking on lawns and flowerbeds.



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