

# Canadian Gardening

## Spring gardening checklist

- Spread finished compost on beds; add kitchen scraps and yard trimmings to the bin to start a new batch of compost.
- Divide mature perennials such as phlox, showy stonecrop and bee balm.
- Harden off seedlings and transplant them to the garden once all danger of frost is over.
- Stake tall perennials such as herbaceous peonies, delphiniums and bellflowers.
- Install a rain barrel to collect runoff from eavestroughs and use this to water your plants.
- Plant out tomato and pepper plants once soil temperature reaches 17°C.
- Tidy up spring-flowering perennials, such as aubretia, creeping phlox, pinks and thyme, by shearing them back once they've flowered.
- As rhododendron and azalea flowers fade and seed heads form, pinch them off. This diverts energy from seed production to overall plant vigour.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs, such as forsythias and lilacs, right after they bloom.
- Fertilize daffodils, crocuses and tulips after flowering.

### Tip:

For a professional look, edge flowerbeds with an edging tool, plastic or aluminum edging or bricks – it'll make mowing the lawn easier, too.

## Essential spring plants:

- ✿ Bulb: Tulip (*Tulipa* spp. and cvs.)
- ✿ Perennial: Peony (*Paeonia* spp. and cvs.)
- ✿ Shrub: Lilac (*Syringa* cvs.)
- ✿ Tree: Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)