

Gardener's Corner

March 2025

It looks like March will continue February's up and down weather. Nonetheless, tulips and daffodils are starting to peek out of the ground and hellebore buds are showing. Both are a sure sign that spring is coming.

Some of the tasks and tips for March from the **Missouri Botanical Garden** include the following. You can plant trees, shrubs, and perennials when they are available at garden centers providing that the ground can be worked. Prune trees before they begin to leaf out. This includes oaks that should be pruned before mid-March to prevent insects spreading oak wilt from mid-March to April.

Remove weeds and dead foliage from garden beds now. Applying mulch now will help to suppress weed growth during the season. Summer and fall blooming perennials can be divided as new growth emerges. Cut ornamental grasses to the ground and divide them as new growth appears. Pansies, violas, snapdragons, sweet alyssum, dianthus and annual primrose can be planted outside. Now is a good time to test your soil so that, if needed, amendments and fertilizers can be applied.

If you are concerned about damage salt may have done to your plants this winter, here are a couple of articles that discuss how to address the problem. They also discuss how to prevent problems in the future. One article is from **Purdue University Extension**

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/id/id-412-w.pdf>; the other from the

University of Wisconsin Extension, you can download it from here:

https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/products/winter-salt-injury-and-salt-tolerant-landscape-plants-p1328?_pos=1&_sid=ef40b12e0&_ss=r

Looking for some new ideas for your garden? Here is an article that may help you focus on the latest design trends. The article is entitled *2025 Trends in Garden Design* and is from the **Garden Design** website. There is even a video attached which might help you develop some new plans. You can find it here: https://www.gardendesign.com/trends/2025.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Trends-ICYMI-1-9-25

Some virtual programs of interest in March are the following:

March 5, 11:00 a.m. to noon. **Kansas State Garden Hour** has a program entitled *Establishing a Native Prairie at Home*, learn about the benefits of prairie landscapes, plant selection, and maintenance techniques to create a beautiful, sustainable ecosystem right at home. Register at: <https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/>

March 6, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Iowa State University Extension** presents *Shade Gardens*. Shade gardens create a fabulous opportunity for stunning plant combinations and comfortable outdoor spaces. Their limitations and restraints can also confuse and confound gardeners. This talk will build your confidence to tackle shady areas and create beautiful garden designs. Register at: https://iastate.zoom.us/webinar/register/6017334944055/WN_VpytVXaYRNazs6C_sGvuEQ#/registration

March 13, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Iowa State University Extension** presents *Slope/terrace Gardening*. Changes in elevation in the landscape can be a challenge to the gardener. The discussion will be about how we can turn these challenges into focal points and create intimate spaces that are not available when gardening on a flat site. Register at:
https://iastate.zoom.us/webinar/register/6017334944055/WN_VpytVXaYRNaZs6C_sGvuEQ#/registration