

## **Gardener's Corner**

### **March, 2026**

The last few days have been beautiful. Although we are in for a couple more cold days, the mild weather means that spring is near. Hopefully, we will be able to work in the garden soon. I'm ready!

The **Missouri Botanical Garden** has several tasks and tips for March. With respect to trees, shrubs and perennials, you can plant these as soon as the ground is workable and the plants are available in garden centers.

Now is the time to prune trees before new growth appears. Oaks should be pruned before mid-March so that insects aren't attracted to sap from wounds. If you didn't trim dead foliage from plants in the fall, this is the time to remove and dispose of vegetation to reduce the risk of fungal infection.

Dividing summer and fall blooming perennials can be done as new growth appears (example, black-eyed Susans). Cut ornamental grasses to the ground now. Also now is a good time to plant spring bedding plants (pansies, violas, snapdragon, sweet alyssum, dianthus and annual primrose).

**Garden Design** has a good article on bringing birds into your yard. Entitled *Bird Garden Ideas: The Best Plants for a Bird-Friendly Garden*, it gives good ideas on what flowers and shrubs will benefit and attract birds. You can find it here:

[https://www.gardendesign.com/landscape-design/bird-garden.html?utm\\_source=article-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=bird-garden-2-26-26](https://www.gardendesign.com/landscape-design/bird-garden.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=bird-garden-2-26-26)

The **University of Minnesota Extension** has a short article on developing a healing garden. It briefly discusses scents, touch, movement and sound and color and harmony. All good things to think about when planning your garden and enjoying it throughout the growing season. The article is *Planning and planting a healing garden* and can be found at

<https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/planning-and-planting-healing-garden>

If you are planning to start seeds indoors, there is a good article from the **Ohio State University**. The article, entitled *Seed Starting Tips*, has several photos and lots of good information including using light and a heat pad. It can be found at:

<https://bygl.osu.edu/node/2603>