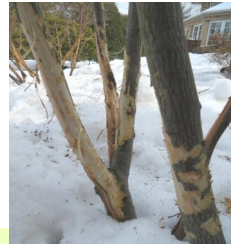


# Spring Clean Up Guide



- With higher than normal snow cover, we have had high numbers of reports of rabbit and mouse damage to trees, Damage appears as stripped bark on trunks and low hanging branches. Come visit our qualified specialists, they can offer suggestions for your damaged



Early spring can be the most exciting time of the year for avid gardens, except when we actually get to start gardening of course. It marks the end of winter and the transition into gardening season ahead. In order to get the yard and beds looking their best before the start of spring there are a few things that need to be done. This is a list of some things that might need attention in your garden . The list includes tips for general maintenance, clematis, rose, lawn, perennials and grasses.

## General Maintenance Tips



- Prune back most perennials, thoroughly rake leaves and clip late summer and fall blooming shrubs
- Check for plants that did not survive winter and need replacing
- When soil is moist in the spring, cutting an edge on your garden is easier
- Always edge before mulching to avoid getting trimmings on top of your mulch
- Spring is an excellent time to top dress your garden with compost/manure
- It's great time to put out first application of mulch
- Remove burlap wraps when weather permits
- Check your lawnmower and other equipment. Make sure they work properly
- Spring's an excellent time to divide perennial roots
- The soil is moist, few leaves to damage, root systems are full of energy & they have the entire season to recover
- Fertilize evergreens in early to mid-April with a complete fertilizer, high in nitrogen.

## Caring for Clematis

- Mid-April is the best time to prune many varieties of clematis
- If you are unsure of the variety and you can't confirm if spring is the best time then prune. If your clematis flowers later or not at all then you'll know for the future that you may want to prune in the fall
- Cut to approximately knee height
- This is also an appropriate time to feed clematis with a low nitrogen fertilizer such as bone meal or a sprinkle of 4-12-8 fertilizer.

## Caring for Roses

- Late April is the best time for pruning. Regular pruning helps to reduce next years winter kill.
- You can always prune before winter but if you prune too aggressively in the fall your rose may winter kill back too far to survive
- Gently uncover plants from mulch or compost
- Remove dead branches
- Choose only the strongest canes and trim to 4-5 strong buds, the last bud should be outward facing.

## Caring for Grasses

- Cut perennial grasses to within a few inches from the ground
- Better to cut in the spring to get the good show in the late fall and through the winter

## Caring for Woody Perennials

- Pruning woody perennials reduces next years chance of winter kill. Wait until *after* chance of last hard frost!
- Examples: Lavender and Artemesia.
- Bonus: They bloom on *new* wood

## Caring for Evergreen & Semi-Evergreen Perennials

- Some perennials retain their leaves through the entire winter and need to be tidied up in the spring.
- Examples: Iris, Heuchera, Helleborus, Epimedium & Bergenia

## Caring for Herbaceous Perennials

- These perennials prefer to be cut back in the spring, the leaves and stalks protect the base of the plant and add cold tolerance .

- Examples: Astilbe, Platycodon, Lobelia, Campanula & Delphiniums
- Some perennials, like Rudbeckia & Echinacea, provide winter food for small birds and could be left until spring
- Some plants, like Rose Mallow, need warm soil to grow and will not emerge until later in the season
- Leave some of the old stems until new growth appears, otherwise, you may forget you have a plant there

## Spring Lawn Care Tips

- Lightly rake with fan rake to remove winter debris and thatch
- If needed, top-dress and fill bare patches with quality compost or soil, then overseed and fertilize. CIL Golfgreen Lawn Thickener is an easy to use, 3 in 1 product that will be a real time saver.
- Good seed/soil contact is important but *never* bury your grass seed
- Use a fertilizer with slow release nitrogen, a single application should last into the summer (9-10 weeks)

## Consider Using Dormant Oil

- Oil controls many overwintering insects by smothering them
- Oil should be applied when temperatures are cool and before buds swell
- Addition of sulphur will help reduce chances of rust, mildew and black spot through out growing season
- Euonymus and Mugo Pine are particularly attractive to scale and strongly benefit from an application of dormant oil. Read label well before use as some plants react poorly to oil

## Other Helpful Tips for Spring Clean Up and Prep

- Native trees drop leaves sooner in fall, making clean-up easier and more likely
- They also leaf out later, allowing sun to reach the understory in spring, warming soil & benefiting low growing plants
- Always start a fresh compost pile each spring, flip & use the old pile to top-dress gardens
- Great time to start forcing Canna Lilies indoors. Repot using potting soil & water gradually to get a jump start

## Parkland Garden Centre

3 Minutes East of 30 ave on Hwy.11  
Red Deer, AB

### Easter Hours:

Good Friday 10:00am-6:00pm

Saturday 9:00am-6:00pm

Easter Sunday Closed

Easter Monday 10:00am-6:00pm

Phone: 403-346-5613

E-mail: info@parklandgc.ca

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**We're on the web!**

**[www.parklandgarden.ca](http://www.parklandgarden.ca)**

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