

March Gardening To-Do List

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March is unpredictable, even in relatively warm climates such as Georgia's. Spring has the upper hand, though, in such states, while, in the North, it is a coin flip as to whether spring or winter will have the upper hand in any given year. Gardeners in the North have plenty to do indoors, though.

If you have not done so already, start a garden journal. It is the best tool for improving your garden systematically over the years. While you're waiting to have something to write in your journal, study these regional garden tips.

All Regions

- Send a sample of your soil into your [local county extension](#) so that they can test it. It is the only scientific way to know what (if anything) needs to be added to your soil.
- Do not walk across your garden when the soil is wet, which it often will be in many regions in March. Treading all over it can lead to compaction, which can impede root penetration and cause poor drainage.

Northeast

March can come in like a lamb and leave like a lion (or vice versa) in the Northeast. Pruning is one of the most important jobs to get done.

- Prune shrubs that flower on new wood before they come out of dormancy.
- Start seeds indoors for tender plants that will be set out in a couple of months, after the danger of frost has passed.
- Trim back ornamental grass stalks to clear room for new growth.
- Spray your fruit trees.
- If you [protected your evergreens with burlap](#) during the winter, remove the burlap now.
- Start spring cleaning in flower beds.
- This is a tricky time for mulch. On the one hand, if frost heaves have exposed plant crowns and temperatures remain generally cold, you will want to apply mulch to protect them. On the other hand, if spring is early, you should [remove enough mulch](#) to let your perennials and spring bulb plants push up out of the ground unimpeded.