



**"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant." Anne Bradstreet**

When is winter over? When it stops snowing or when you see the first spring flower - snowdrops? The well-known saying, "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb," derives from the fact that March begins in winter and ends in spring. I notice spring is here when daylight increases, temperatures are warmer, and you see the rebirth of spring bulbs. Other signs I notice are: when children lose a glove and they are not replaced; mailboxes are no longer being knocked over by the plow trucks; the family pet tracks in mud; the sound of ice cycles dropping from gutters; geese flying North; young people wearing lighter weight clothing; and I am out in the gardens turning soil, adding compost, cutting tall grasses, etc., etc. How can you not feel happy when looking at the first show of spring flowers in the ground and the grass is turning greener and greener as each day passes?



**"Bluebirds are a sign of spring; warm weather and gentle south breezes they bring."**

### **March Landscaping Chores:**

-  Spring clean birdhouses and maybe even apply a fresh coat of paint and freshen up bird baths
-  Repair the grounds of tunnels made by garden pests
-  Fix uneven pavers and steppingstones
-  Remove dead wood and suckers from trees and shrubs, both evergreen and deciduous
-  Plant summer bulbs
-  Clean and repair gutters to prevent water from drowning plants below
-  Cut back ornamental grasses to about 6 inches tall
-  Cut back perennials almost to ground level
-  Plant newly purchased dormant trees and shrubs
-  Dig and divide emerging perennials, such as hosta, fern, day lily, etc.
-  Scrub clean clay pots from last year's soil
-  7 Successful seed starter tips: provide proper home, read the seed packet, supply plenty of light, moisturize the seeds, give plenty of space, slowly introduce the outdoors, and plant the seedlings and watch them grow.

Tip: Plant seeds in soil in a handmade paper cup – place in ground when temperatures are warm – the handmade paper cup will protect the seedling and the wet paper will keep the soil moist. The following is a website about Organic Gardening: <http://www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/seed-starting-simplified>

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