

Home & Garden

Preparing your garden and lawn in early spring will ensure a beautiful yard and bountiful flowers that you can enjoy throughout the summer.

The following are some tips from John Mansz, gardening expert at The Home Depot Canada.

May

- ✓ Nurseries and garden centres will have the best selections of annuals and perennials. Flowers and plants can be stored in a sheltered area prior to planting.
- ✓ For best results follow the planting directions on the back of the package.

✓ When planting flower bulbs, it is best to arrange them in single colour groups for maximum show. Use a transplanting fertilizer to assist growth and establishment. Bulbs prefer sunny areas with well-drained soil.

✓ The Victoria Day weekend is the ideal time to plant your annuals and perennials, as most early frost mornings have past.

✓ Holes for planting flower bulbs should be about two inches deep at ground level and six to eight inches apart.

✓ For balance, plant flowers front to back from the lowest to the highest growers.

✓ Use a cedar or cocoa mulch on existing perennials to keep weeds down to a minimum.

✓ To help the plants get established into the soil, apply a fertilizer around the drip line.

✓ Water plants in the morning, as opposed to night. This will help curb insects from chewing at the leaves and stalks.

✓ Ponds are quickly becoming a popular trend in gardening.

✓ Using bloodmeal (an organic fertilizer) around the pond, will help keep cats, dogs and raccoons at bay.

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