

TOP 10 TASKS THIS MONTH



Lis Wallace

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IN YOUR WEB BROWSER



- Long awaited daffodils will be fading now so strengthen the bulbs for next year by snapping off the deadheads. Don't be tempted to remove the leaves, untidy as they may look they really do need to be left to die down naturally if you want a good display next year.
- As spring bulbs come to an end now is the time to plant summer flowering ones, including lilies, anemones, dahlias, begonias and gladioli. Wait until the soil begins to warm and choose a sunny spot in free-draining soil. Summer bulbs will also do well grown in pots. Remember to plant at 2 to 3 times the depth of the bulb.
- Sow tomato seed this month and you'll be picking the fruits by the end of June.
- Time spent weeding now will prevent them from spreading later as the ever-strengthening sun encourages growth. It will also help to aerate the soil.
- Cut down any perennials left from last year so that new growth can form. Now is the time to put supports in place for the plants to grow up and through.
- Sow, sow, sow! March is prime seed sowing time so make sure you've got the seeds you want, plenty of seed trays and compost and then get started. Hardy annuals can be sown direct where you want them to flower.
- Lawn mowing starts this month, depending on the weather! Set the blades nice and high and remember to skirt round any clumps of bulbs. Neatening the edges of the lawn will give the garden an instant lift.
- The deadheads on hydrangeas will have provided the plant with winter protection but can now be removed. Using sharp secateurs, cut the stem back to the first strong, healthy pair of buds down from the dead flower.
- Plants growing in containers will need regular watering from this month onwards with some needing repotting. If the plant is too large to repot simply carefully remove some of the top compost and replace with fresh.
- Garden birds continue to need your help so please keep feeders clean and well stocked and remember to also supply fresh water.



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