



G O L D E N A C R E

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S I N C E 1 9 6 7



Hello Spring!!!

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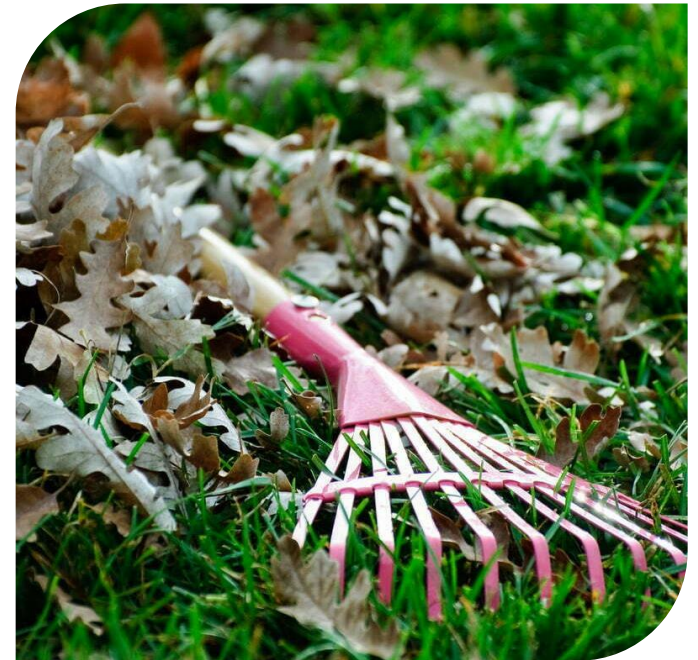
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How do we help a garden wake up?

As light and warmth return the garden naturally starts to awaken.

The warmth melts the snow and ice creating moisture, the light allows photosynthesis, these 2 factors combined start plants waking up and breaking dormancy.

Critters return and nutrients are freed.



What are we looking for?

- Winter damage
- Garden progress
- Perennials and bulbs shooting
- Soil quality
- Debris
- Lawn condition
- Bugs, birds and other critters.





What do we do first?

- First, we need to assess where and when we can start.
- Trees and shrubs are always a good start.
- Look for dry/drier areas in lawns and flower beds.
- Check raised planters.
- Tool inventory and quality.
- It's a marathon not a sprint.

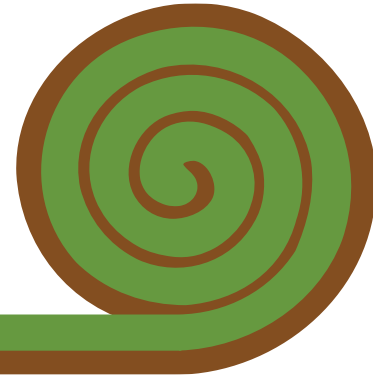
Trees and shrubs.

- Prune where needed. Often it is too early to know if a branch survived the winter, if unsure leave it.
- Always best to remember less is more at this time of year.
- Remember the 5 Ds –
 - Dead.
 - Diseased.
 - Damaged.
 - Dangerous.
 - Desirable.



Lawns.

- Wait until your lawn is dry before you begin.
- Rake gently to start –
 - Looking to remove debris.
 - Lifting the lawn to allow air flow.



- Most lawns will need at least 2, maybe 3, rakings.
- Only apply fertilizer once lawn is actively growing.
- Apply seed and top dress when temperatures are consistently warmer for best results.
- Only dethatch once lawn is dry.

Flower beds and raised planters.

- Wait until thawed/dry/drier.
- Earlier the better.
- Clean debris.
- Break soil compaction.
- Assess perennials.
- Examine soil quality.
- Tidy edges.



Amendments- What are they?

Soil amendments are any substances which are added to flower/veggie beds and raised planters with the intent of changing the chemical or physical nature of the soil. These do not include fertilizers. The main purposes being –

- Water retention.
- Aeration.
- Drainage.
- Soil replenishment.



Amendments- What to use?



Compost – A mix of decayed and broken-down ingredients. Used to return organic matter in a readily available form to plants.

Coco coir – Shredded coconut husks. Used to improve the texture of soil, especially clay soil and aid in water retention and root development.

Manure – Composted herbivorous animal waste. Used to increase soil structure, aeration, water retention and a rich matter to feed plants.

Peat moss – Dead fibrous material formed from dead and decaying mosses. Used to help manage pH as an acidifier, improves texture of soil, helps water retention and aeration.

Amendments- What to use?



Worm castings – Highly active biological mix of worm soil. Used to anchor nutrients that would leach away, readily feed plants, improve aeration add beneficial micro-organisms.

Volcanic rock mineral – Crushed volcanic rock. Used to remineralize soils and provide micro-nutrients to plants.

Perlite – Water retaining volcanic glass. Used for root development, aeration, drainage, improved texture.

Vermiculite – Naturally occurring mineral. Used to aerate soil while retaining both water and nutrients.

Bio-char – Charred organic material. Used to neutralize acidity improve nutrient and water retention, creates positive habitats for beneficial soil microbes, bacteria's and nematodes.

How to amend.

Flower/veggie beds

- Remove debris.
- Turn soil to break compaction.
- Add amendments at the same time.
- Use whichever you think is best based on soil quality.
- No need to go deeper than 2" to 4".
- Turn soil carefully around existing plants.

Raised planters.

- Remove debris.
- Turn soil to break compaction.
- Add amendments simultaneously.
- Use light amendments, stay away from manures and composts, or dilute them.
- If possible, go deeper.



Notes on “debris”

Get rid of and dispose of any actual garbage. However, do not be too quick not get rid of organic debris, such as thatch, leaves, branches etc. These piles are essential for beneficial critters to protect against frosts/snows.





Fertilizing in spring.

Fertilizing should only be done when plants are actively growing.

Slow-release fertilizers can be added in the spring.

Less is more.

General purpose and transplant fertilizers are perfect for this time of year.



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Tool & accessory check.

- Check and clean/sterilize garden tools.
- Sharpen and sterilize pruners.
- Check pots for damage.
- Clean/sterilize pots.
- Check hoses, sprinklers and nozzles.
- Clean and check rain barrels. If you don't have a rain barrel, consider installing one.





It's a marathon, not a sprint.

- Very unlikely it will be one and done.
- Keep an eye on the weather.
- Tackle what you can, when you can. Small pockets of success are better than exhausting yourself.
- No-one likes to be woken up in a jarring manner, your garden is the same.
- Ask for help.





Thank You!