

SHELMERDINE

Early Spring Home & Garden Checklist

- Pick up some colourful flowering plants like primrose or kalanchoe to boost your spirits!
- Start to plan which trees and shrubs you'd like to add to your landscape so you can plant them as soon as they become available.
- As days get longer, start feeding indoor plants with a fertilizer solution at half the recommended strength.
- Replace your furnace air filter
- Start seeds for annuals and vegetables, but don't start too early! Follow the germination guide on the back of this checklist.
- Give summer flowering bulbs such as cannas, dahlias and begonias a head start by potting them indoors under lights until the last day of frost.
- Inspect your gardening tools for any repair or sharpening that might be required.
- Clean out your eavestroughs/gutters and downpipes
- Clean up and repair - remove broken stems and branches, clean up any winter debris that has gathered around plants.
- Prune deciduous trees and shrubs, except for those that flower in the spring such as lilac and forsythia.
- Spray scale-infected trees and shrubs with dormant oil spray before their leaves appear.
- Cut the stems of "Annabelle" hydrangea back to the ground.
- Apply slow-release fertilizer to flowering shrubs and vines.
- Apply Scott's lawn fertilizer with corn gluten to minimize the germination of crabgrass and dandelions.
- As soon as the ground is workable, plant cold crop vegetables such as sweet peas, onions, cabbage, radishes and leeks.
- Pull out weeds as they appear.