March means new beginnings! There is plenty to do this month as the growing season is just around the corner.

Town & Country’s plant doctors are available during store hours to answer your gardening questions. For accurate diagnosis, please bring in a sample (preferred) or a picture of the problem.

**Tropicals and Houseplants**
- Now is a good time to re-pot houseplants into slightly larger pots using Town & Country Professional Potting Mix.
- Houseplants sense spring with the longer days. Begin feeding with Bonide Houseplant Food to encourage healthy new growth.
- Add orchids, African violets, bromeliads and other flowering plants to bring color indoors.

**Indoor Seed & Bulb Starting**
- Start flower and vegetable seeds indoors. Ask for a copy of our Seed Starting Guide for recommended indoor sowing dates and tips for success. (Also available on our website.)
- Use grow lights to encourage healthy growth of seedlings and other indoor plants.
- Begin fertilizing seedlings with Fertilome Water Soluble Plant Food 20-20-20.
- Purchase Crook’s Brand garden seed now. Take advantage of the Early Bird Sale.
- Apply Hi-Yield Captan to seedlings as first true leaves develop to prevent damp off disease.
- Mark your seedlings with wood or plastic labels to identify varieties and planting dates.
- Plant dahlia, canna, and begonia bulbs indoors for planting out later.

**Fruit**
- Prune and thin raspberry plants to clean up last year’s dead canes.
- Apply Soil Sulfur to prevent yellowing of raspberry leaves.
- Dormant bare root raspberries and strawberries can be planted beginning in mid to late March as soon as they are available.
- Apply Casoron herbicide granules to prevent weeds in raspberries all season long.
- Spray fruit trees with Hi Yield Dormant Spray to kill overwintering insects and eggs.
- Remove straw mulch from strawberries if it was applied last fall.

**Flowers**
- Prune back dead stalks on perennial flowers and ornamental grasses to the ground.
- Fertilize established bulbs with a side dressing of Dutch Bulb Food.
- Fertilize perennial flowers with T&C Fruit & Flower Food.
- Prepare seed bed and plant wildflower seed from mid March to late April.

**Birds and Wildlife**
- Continue to feed birds with suet, black oil sunflower, and high quality wild bird seed.
- Provide a water source such as a heated bird bath.
Vegetables
- Remove any spent vines and corn stalks from garden spot if not completed last fall.
- Add **Soil Enhancer** or compost as well as **sulfur**, and rototill into soil to prepare seed bed.
- If you have a high tunnel hoop house you can plant cool weather crops like lettuce now.

Roses
- Avoid removing winter protection from roses until weather warms enough that new shoots are beginning to emerge. Then prune canes to 8-12” on hybrid teas. Remove dead canes.

Lawn
- Rake matted grass as snow recedes to prevent snow mold from damaging your lawn.
- Apply **Natural Guard Soil Activator** (Step-1) to your lawn to help decompose lawn thatch and green up your lawn. This can be done anytime in March or early April.
- Ask about our **4-Step Lawn Program** for the greenest, healthiest lawn in the neighborhood.

Trees & Shrubs
- Prune most trees now. Skip maples and birches until summer to avoid excessive bleeding.
- Fertilize trees and shrubs with **Save-A-Tree** or **T&C Tree & Shrub Food**.
- Apply **Fertilome Tree & Shrub Systemic Insect Drench** to prevent most insect damage to your trees and shrubs for the entire growing season.
- Spray shade trees with **Hi Yield Dormant Spray** to kill overwintering insects and eggs.
- Check staked trees and loosen or remove ties around trunks if necessary to prevent injury.

Ponds
- When pond thaws, pumps and pre-filters should be cleaned and reconnected. The sooner you get your pumps and filters running the sooner your pond will start to get its ecosystem re-established and balanced.
- Remove as much sludge, leaves, and debris from pond as possible. Don’t drain and scrub clean. This will kill beneficial bacteria and destroy the ecological balance in the pond.
- Bacteria should be added as soon as the ice begins to recede. **Microbe Lift Spring Cleaner** is excellent at jump starting your ecosystem in the spring and helping to break down accumulated organic waste.
- **Test the pH, Ammonia, Nitrite and Nitrate** levels. Continue testing weekly until your system has been running for 4-6 weeks and has stabilized, then check biweekly.
- Don’t feed fish until water temperature reaches 50 degrees. (Check temp. in the a.m.)
- Hardy plants that over-wintered at the bottom of the pond can be moved back up to their growing locations and proper depths.
- Divide and repot your water lilies and marginal plants as needed.
- Fertilize pond plants with **Aquatic Tabs** for healthier, more vigorous plants.
- Clean and inspect biological filters and skimmers. Don’t use chlorinated water as this will kill beneficial bacteria. Check filter pads and replace as necessary.

*Always read and follow label directions when using any garden chemical or fertilizer.*

---

**Town & Country gardens**

5800 S. Yellowstone Hwy
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208) 522-5247

1300 E. Oak
Pocatello, ID 83402
(208) 232-7985