

Canada Blooms

THE FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

MEDIA RELEASE

March 20, 2014

Get Your Garden Ready for Spring

Tips from Canada Blooms to ensure a beautiful and bountiful patch this season

TORONTO, Ont. — It has been a long, cold and white winter, but the days are getting longer and spring officially arrives today.

It's time for gardening enthusiasts to put some serious thought into the plants and colours that will be gracing their gardens this year, and preparing for what is to come over the next several weeks. Ideas for the garden are plentiful at Canada Blooms, Canada's largest floral and garden show.

"We have long been waiting for today, after the winter we have had," says Colomba Fuller, Artistic Director at Canada Blooms. "With the arrival of spring we can turn our thoughts to the soil and our plants and begin preparing for a spring and summer of vibrant colours and healthy fruits and vegetables right from our yards."

Canada Blooms, running until March 23 at the Direct Energy Centre in Toronto, offers a full array of tips for prepping your garden and ideas that will inspire your plan for what to plant, and where you can best utilize each plant's colours and properties.

With a WILD! theme this year, Canada Blooms' garden designers are going for a more natural look in their creations, generating ideas that will attract and support wildlife and lend a classy look to your own garden.

"As excited as we may be for the arrival of spring, our gardens will need some time and effort to get ready," says Charlie Dobbin, Director of Horticulture for Canada Blooms. "It is important gardeners still heed the weather and accept that we do live in Canada where a spring frost and snowfall is not unrealistic. We need to choose our plants and prepare accordingly."

Some tips for preparing your garden include:

- Get your compost ready. Either stockpile bags from your local garden centre or ensure your home compost is turned and ready. This is vital for a healthy garden.
- Start collecting small containers where you can start your seedlings. Get your seeds growing immediately so they are ready to get outside and in the ground by May.
- Start browsing online, leafing through catalogues or visiting your local garden centre for your seeds, thinking about the colours you want to display and the delicious food you want to grow.
- During warmer periods, get out and start prepping your soil. Break it up, get it turned now to save yourself some work during warmer days in late April and early May.

- Take a peek in your garage or garden shed and take stock of your garden tools. Make sure everything is in working order, and take note of implements that may need to be replaced.
- Clear a space for your potting area, whether it is a corner in your garage or out on your patio. Clean up an old table, maybe give it a fresh coat of paint and when the sunny days are here for good you will have a new potting area ready.
- Plants like pansies, ranunculus and primula are ideal for early spring planting. They either flourish in cooler temperatures, or use the moist, cool soil to firmly establish themselves for a summer of vibrant colours.
- Putting spring bulbs in the ground now will ensure blooms all summer long. Consider bulbs like Gladiolus, Dahlias and Caladiums — although the latter are best planted later in the spring.

Canada Blooms is open from March 14 – 23, Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets for Canada Blooms, part of the largest home and garden event in North America, are available at www.canadablooms.com. Follow Canada Blooms on Twitter [@CanadaBlooms](https://twitter.com/CanadaBlooms) and Like it on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CanadaBlooms).

About Canada Blooms

Canada Blooms is an annual world-class festival that connects people to the joys and benefits of nature through experiences with gardens and flowers by promoting, educating, inspiring and celebrating all aspects of horticulture. A not-for-profit organization that gives back to the community throughout the year by funding community garden projects around Ontario, Canada Blooms is also dedicated to providing the community with horticulture expertise, education and resources on an ongoing basis.

Now in its 18th year, Canada Blooms was founded by Landscape Ontario and The Garden Club of Toronto. Each year it is supported by a committed group of partners, sponsors and volunteers. Canada Blooms has been named One of Ontario's Top 100 Events by Festivals and Events Ontario and One of North America's Top 100 Events by the American Bus Association.

The 2014 Canada Blooms Festival Sponsors include: AM740, Canadian Gardening, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Fafard, Floral Dimensions, GardenMaking Magazine, CTV, Gardens Central Magazine, Growers of Ontario, Harrowsmith Almanac, Homes Publishing, InterContinental Hotel Toronto, Metroland, The New Classical 96.3FM, Ontario Gardener Magazine, Ontario Tourism, Pick Ontario, Santa Margherita Wines, Scotts Canada, Toronto Botanical Garden, The Toronto Star, Tourism Ireland and UNILOCK.

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Media Contact:

Bruce Sudds
Director of Sponsorship and Marketing
Bruce@Engagers.ca