



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

March 6, 2015

# **Get your Garden Ready for Spring**

*Pointers to help it recover from the harsh Canadian winter*

**TORONTO, Ont.** — This past February was one of the coldest in recent memory, but with Canada Blooms just around the corner our thoughts are turning to warmer days that we can spend digging in the dirt.

But with temperatures below freezing for the entire month of February and piles of snow across Southern Ontario, it is best to get your garden prepped before your thoughts turn to planting.

“We Canadians are a hardy people, as our many of the plants and flowers we find around our homes,” says Denis Flanagan, a horticultural expert with Landscape Ontario. “But a little prep work when the snow melts away will help ensure your garden is lush and vibrant when the warm weather arrives for the summer.”

Denis offers the following tips for getting your garden and yard ready for spring:

- After another harsh winter be sure to check plants for winter damage, prune out dead or damaged branches, damaged bark if not cleaned correctly can be a hiding place for pests and diseases.
- Rake out winter debris and dead grass (known as thatch) from lawns, open up pores on the lawn’s surface by using an aerating machine so that when you apply a high nitrogen fertilizer it is reaching the roots of the grass.
- Clean up perennial plants by removing dead foliage, carefully avoid damaging the centre (crown) of the plant, and apply a fresh layer of mulch around the root zone.
- Prepare vegetable gardens by turning the soil over to a depth of 15 inches and digging in manure and compost to supply valuable nutrients to vegetables throughout the growing season.
- Freshen up pots and containers by turning the soil and adding compost and a slow release fertilizer.

“You are usually safe to plant tender plants around the Victoria Day long weekend, but getting all of this work done now means you don’t have to do it then,” says Flanagan. “That means you get right into planting your annuals and seeds.”

Co-located with the National Home Show, Canada Blooms takes place March 13<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, at the Direct Energy Centre at Exhibition Place in Toronto. For more information or for tickets, please visit [canadablooms.com](http://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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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