

Spring Into Gardening

with Sandra Hartill and
Jeanette Inthisorn @Garden_Muskoka

Planning Your Garden and Keeping yourself Organized

Set up a Garden Binder, and Identify your goals and budget – money, time/bandwidth

Remember to take it slowly, as there are **4 phases when adding or designing a garden**

1. Maintenance – Hardscape, systems, Tools, Perennial Plants
2. Planning –
 - a. assessing your growing conditions
 - i. What parts are sunny, shady? How does it change through the year?
 - ii. Where are the spring wet spots? Dry Spots?
 - iii. What is the furthest place your hose can reach?
 - b. researching styles (Pinterest is great!)
 - c. getting clear about your desired uses and property zones,
 - d. creating the plan
 - e. purchasing supplies
3. Executing - other problems will come up
 - a. Putting in Hardscape, Systems and digging new beds
4. Cleaning – often overlooked in time allotment

Pick one skill per year, and one major project.

Take Stock of what you have and what shape it is in.

GARDEN PLANNING

- ☐ Order seeds
- ☐ Get seed containers ready
- ☐ **Order/Make Plant labels**
- ☐ Buy new plants - *Think about growing native plants*
- ☐ Dig new garden beds



JOIN US!

www.Muskoka.MGOL.ca

Facebook.com/MuskokaMasterGardeners

Spring Into Gardening

with Sandra Hartill and
Jeanette Inthisorn @Garden_Muskoka

GENERAL MAINTENANCE & INSPECTION

LOOK OVER THESE ITEMS FOR DAMAGE:

HARDSCAPE

- ☐ Fences and trellises
- ☐ Pathways and Stones
- ☐ Raised Garden Beds
- ☐ Garden Furniture
- ☐ Lawn Edging
- ☐ Bird Baths and Bird Houses
- ☐ Pollinator Drinking Stations
- ☐ Planters and Pots

TOOLS

- ☐ Inspect tools
- ☐ Sharpen edges
- ☐ Look over power tools
- ☐ Refill gas containers
- ☐ Purchases new tools if needed

PERENNIALS & SOIL

Wait for it to be consistently above 10C, 50F to make sure bugs are ok before removing debris

- ☐ Clean up perennials
- ☐ Prune woody perennials
- ☐ Check Rose bushes
- ☐ Prune trees and shrubs that need it
- ☐ Cut back Grassy plants
- ☐ Weeds
- ☐ Divide perennials

GENERAL SPRING GARDEN TIPS

- ☐ Add mulch
- ☐ Stake plants
- ☐ check compost pile (start a new pile)
- ☐ Fertilize plants or add compost to soil



JOIN US!

www.Muskoka.MGOL.ca

Facebook.com/MuskokaMasterGardeners

Spring Into Gardening

with Sandra Hartill and
Jeanette Inthisorn @Garden_Muskoka

COLD HARDY VEGETABLES

- ☐ Get cold hardy vegetables in early
- ☐ Plan crop rotation
- ☐ Add supports for climbing vegetables

Root Vegetables

Beets

Carrots

Garlic (Plant in the Fall)

Leeks

Onions

Parsnips

Potatoes

Radishes

Rutabaga

Salsify*

Shallots

Turnips

Herbs

Cilantro

Fennel

Parsley

Scallions/Green Onions*

Leafy Greens

Arugula (Rocket)

Asian Greens

Claytonia

Endive

Lettuce

Mache

Mizuna

Mustard Greens

Pak choi (Bok choy) – can
bolt if exposed to frost too
early

Sorrel*

Radicchio

Spinach

Swiss Chard

Tat Soi

Cabbage Family Crops

Broccoli

Brussels Sprouts

Cabbage

Cauliflower

Collards

Kale

Kohlrabi

Sprouting Broccoli

Other Crops

Asparagus*

Celery and Celeriac

Cress

Peas

Rhubarb*



JOIN US!

www.Muskoka.MGOL.ca

Facebook.com/MuskokaMasterGardeners

**Perennial Vegetables*

Spring Into Gardening

with Sandra Hartill and
Jeanette Inthisorn @Garden_Muskoka

LAWN CARE

- ☐ Rake and aerate lawns
- ☐ Repair patchy lawns with seed or sod
- ☐ Overseeding – more blades/leaves per inch, less weeds and less mud.

No Mow May is a *problem* for native bees.

Dandelions are an invasive species that are not helpful for native pollinators. Dandelions are only good for ***European honey bees***. Dandelion pollen has been proven to ***stunt larval growth in native bees***.

The best thing to do for native bees is to ***plant an early blossoming native pollinator garden***.

If you have weeds, it's a problem for you. The more they grow and establish themselves, the worse your lawn is for it. So mow your lawn as needed.

<https://www.cleannorth.org/2021/04/08/the-common-dandelion-bee-saviour-or-pesty-invasive/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CWe%20are%20feeding%20the%20bees,development%20was%20stunted%20or%20incomplete.>

What does “Last Frost” Mean?

Step 1: Find your Last frost date

<https://www.almanac.com/gardening/frostdates/ON>

- Gravenhurst, Bracebridge= Muskoka A ON, May 31 – Sep 12, 103 days
- Huntsville = Beatrice 2 ON, June 12 – Sep 5, 84 days
- Sundridge, POWASSAN ON, June 3-Sep 7, 95 days

Last Frost date has a **50% chance of frost**

The First week thereafter has a **25% chance of frost**

The second week after has a **10% chance of frost**

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/climate-zones-and-planting-dates-vegetables-ontario>



JOIN US!

www.Muskoka.MGOL.ca

Facebook.com/MuskokaMasterGardeners