

GARDENING NOTES FOR MARCH

With March comes the start of spring and the lengthening days. There can be pronounced variations in the day to day weather during this month, with the most contrast occurring between the North and South of the country.

Spring fertilisers can now be applied, while beds for onions, leeks, dahlias, chrysanthemums etc. can be prepared at the beginning of the month. Broad beans and parsnips can be put into the garden, along with early potatoes although it is best to wait until after the 21st of the Month. Summer cabbage can be started in the greenhouses, my own favourite is the variety "Minicole", which is very good for cooking and make a super coleslaw.

Onion sets can be put out, beginning by drawing a 1" trench for the onion sets and then push the bulb into it and cover over with soil, this stops the birds pulling them out. Shallots also can still be planted out at this time.

March is the time to recommence feeding pot plants, it is also a good time to clean the plants by removing old leaves etc. Sweet peas can be prepared for planting out, by hardening them off in the cold frame.

Complete digging as soon as possible and remove mosses from paths etc. this can be done by using a tar-oil wash. Lawns can be seen to, by raking old grass off with the wire rake, and with lifted cutters on the lawn mower, can be cut when dry enough. Slugs can be troublesome in late March, so put pellets down around delphiniums and tulips or any other tender plants. Now is the time to start from seed bedding plants in the greenhouse. As a useful tip dahlias grown from seed make an excellent bedding plant.

Keep a good eye on the weather forecast, as frost can still be about. Good gardening.