

Culver's Garden Center
and Greenhouse

Culver's Garden Tip of the Month

January

Take care of your trees! Make sure to check your tree wraps to ensure that they're holding up. To prevent breakage of evergreen limbs, gently sweep off any heavy snow.

February

Now is the time to prune berries, fruit trees and most deciduous shrubs and trees! Beware of pruning evergreens—these sensitive trees are easily damaged.

March

According to Susan Appleget Hurst, author of the *Iowa Gardener's Guide*, March is the month to “count backward

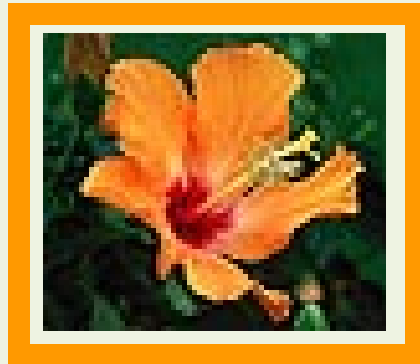
from your planting dates for your area, and start seeds indoors for garden crops and ornamentals.” Early March, plant the cabbage family seeds. In mid-March, tomatoes, eggplant, gerberas, zinnias, peppers, marigolds and salvias can be planted.

April

Hostas, phlox, and most other perennials can be divided this month. Slow-release fertilizer can also be applied to perennial flower beds.

May

Watering is key this month! Water and mulch all newly planted trees and shrubs, and if the weather is dry, continue watering weekly. Note: By the end of the month, all trees and shrubs should be planted!



June

When they are done flowering, prune all spring-blooming shrubs, such as lilacs. Many people choose to wait until fall to do this, but they are cutting off next spring's buds.

**Come See
What's New...**

July

It's compost time! Turn the compost pile at least one time in July and add a shovelful of soil. Chop new materials (they'll decompose faster), and make sure to water the pile if it's dry.

August

Lawn seeding needs to be established before the weather turns cold, so start by late August in Zone 4 and by mid-September in Zone 5.

September

Late this month, you can dig up cannas, caladiums, dahlias and glads. Make sure to store them in a cool, dry area. Basements work great!

October

Cold and damp can do a number on decorative pots and concrete! This month, protect your Italian terra cotta and ceramics by emptying and storing them indoors. Concrete should have empty drainage holes.

November

Perennials need to be properly protected this month! Mulches of straw, pine needles and shredded leaves work well. Remember to mound soil around your roses, and protect rose canes with burlap.

December

Houseplants grow more slowly in December, since this is a low-light time of the year. Slow down on fertilizing them!

Want more tips?

Call (319) 377-4195 or stop by and talk with a member of Culver's knowledgeable staff!