



## Garden Tips by Region and Season: Tips for Northeastern Gardens

### Spring

- **More perennials:** Spring is a prime time to divide perennials once their foliage is at least a couple of inches tall. Divide perennial plants if they are getting crowded or if you just want more of them.
- **Deadhead spring bulbs:** Take care to remove any dead flower heads on spring-blooming bulbs. This helps the plants conserve energy and allows them to naturalize and return strong and healthy the following season.
- **Good enough to eat:** Spring is a prime time to plant annual vegetables and fruits, such as berries like raspberries or strawberries.
- **Pruning practices:** Spring-blooming trees and shrubs can be pruned right after they flower to ensure you have healthy flowers next spring.
- **Check soil temperature:** Soil should be about 60 degrees Fahrenheit to plant heat-loving vegetables. Usually two weeks after the last frost, you can plant seeds for corn, green beans, squash, cucumbers, okra, melons and sweet potatoes. As seeds begin to sprout, use Miracle-Gro® Garden Soil for Flowers & Vegetables to help the young plants grow.

### Summer

- **Pick, pick, pick:** Be sure to keep up the harvest from your garden and tend to plants that need daily picking. Clean up as you harvest by disposing of dead plants, a breeding ground for pests.
- **Summer heat:** As summer temperatures continue to rise it is more comfortable to garden in the early morning. It's also often the best time to feed and water your plants. If you're short on time, try Miracle-Gro® Watering Can Singles™, individual water soluble plant food packets ready to be poured into a water can, no measuring necessary.
- **Water wise:** Plan on watering thoroughly and infrequently in the early morning. Use natural rainfall as often as possible. After a good rain is also the easiest time to pull weeds.
- **Mulch goodness:** Mulching is one of the easiest and most beneficial practices you can use in the garden. Adding a layer of mulch to the vegetable garden in the summer provides a barrier to physically minimize weeds, conserve moisture, protect soil from erosion, help maintain a more even soil temperature and keep vegetables clean.
- **Summertime chores:** As the warm weather begins to wane, take stock of which plants are performing well. If an annual looks sickly, replace it with a new annual for the fall and winter months. If a perennial looks weak, cut it back so it can return next spring.