



NORTH BAY HERITAGE GARDENERS

COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN FULL BLOOM

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### Online Education - March 2021

The North Bay Heritage Gardeners' Master Gardener Lynn Farintosh and NBHG Executive Director Jade Scognamillo designed a monthly education resource. Each month, three topics will be explored, accompanied by articles, videos, online resources, and/or in-person interviews. Materials will be posted on our website for one month.

I feel it's safe to say that spring is figuring large in the thoughts and imaginations of gardeners all over Ontario. It's still too early for many gardening activities, but it's safe to think about what is coming up soon. We have covered four topics this month.

#### March Topics

1. Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring
2. Pruning
3. Dormant Oil Applications
4. PlantWatch

Much of the information listed within Topic 1 tells you to wait a bit yet before getting too far into your garden. However, Topics 2, 3, and 4 will give you more to think about and provide you with some jobs that can be done sooner than mid-May.

### TOPIC 1: GETTING YOUR GARDEN READY FOR SPRING

March is here and safe to say that it is almost spring, but not quite yet.



- a. This link is to a short article on the website Houzz giving reasons why you should not rush spring garden clean up... (North Bay is Zone 4, in case you wonder when you get to the end of the article). <https://www.houzz.com/magazine/4-reasons-not-to-rush-the-spring-garden-cleanup-stsetivw-vs~45422876>



- b. Here's a very short article by a commercial nursery and landscape business that gives some do's and don'ts for early spring in the garden. I'll add that early spring is a good time to get out your outdoor furniture and maybe give it a cleaning.

<https://www.growhausmn.com/blog/2020/03/27/the-dos-and-dont-of-spring-yard-clean-up/>



- c. A third article linked here gives a bit more background to the whys and alternatives to cleaning up your garden in early spring. This one is from an online gardening journal.

<https://savvygardening.com/spring-garden-clean-done-right/>

- d. You will have noticed that protecting insects is mentioned in the three articles above. Linked here is an excellent five-page article from American Gardening Magazine's May/June 2020 issue in pdf format. It gives ideas about rethinking our relationship with insects, a topic I'm seeing pop up in many places these days.

<https://ahsgardening.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Bugs-TAG-MJ20.pdf>

### FOR THE GARDEN, LANDSCAPE & LAWN

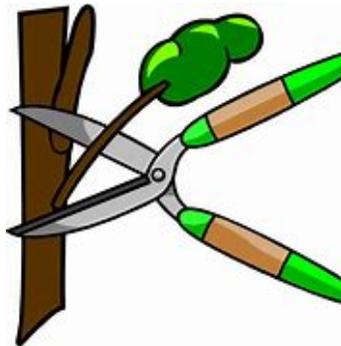


Now that you know all the things you shouldn't do in your garden yet, here are some jobs that you can start adding to your garden plan to do soon.



## TOPIC 2: PRUNING

Pruning seems to be one of those gardening topics that can cause needless fear and confusion. Granted there is a fair bit of terminology and a lot of talk about timing that may require some study. Once you get onto a few concepts, you'll be making good cuts in no time, and your shrubs will thank you. If you are new to pruning shrubs or are confused about it, I suggest watching these videos more than once. The first time through, just let the information sort of wash over you without trying too hard to comprehend it all. It will start to make sense and rest assured, the North Bay Heritage Gardeners will be providing some hands-on pruning help in the waterfront beds this May.



- a. Here are two excellent introductory videos on general pruning concepts; each video is less than five minutes long. [https://youtu.be/q4kW9SUp4\\_A](https://youtu.be/q4kW9SUp4_A) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjSzADujzOY>
- b. It might just be my sense of humour, but I really enjoy this series of six videos by a not-for-profit in Oregon called Plant Amnesty. I've linked to the second video here; it's about 25 minutes long. I thought this was the most useful in the series, but you'll find all six in the series on Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BWT97io54U>

Here you'll find another series by the same organization. This link will take you to the first of four narrated slideshow videos in this series. This one is about 12 minutes long. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJ92R642k7E>

- c. This is a very short article from a website by and for gardeners. It has a really good diagram that helps explain how a shrub reacts over time to rejuvenation pruning. It also covers hard pruning. [Pruning Plants - When And How To Hard Prune Plants \(gardeningknowhow.com\)](http://gardeningknowhow.com)



- d. Here's a great 4-minute video on pruning junipers.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yln\\_0GDAORU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yln_0GDAORU)
- e. Here's an excellent 6-minute video from The University of Maine on pruning lilacs.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jyl4-FLRZc>

### TOPIC 3: DORMANT OIL APPLICATIONS

Looking for dormant oil applications, or not sure how they work?

PLANT PESTS CONTROLLED WITH DORMANT OIL	
Dormant-season applications	
aphid eggs	overwintering mites or mite eggs
caterpillar eggs on bark (leafrollers, tent caterpillars, and tussock moth)	scale insects (nymphs)

- a. Here's a 5-minute video from an Oklahoma University entomologist telling how dormant oils work and when to apply them.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SejztZm1MY>
- b. Here's a 2-minute video by a tree-care company on the same topic.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chqGmXGTQmQ>



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## TOPIC 4: PLANTWATCH

PlantWatch is another early spring garden activity.



This quote is taken directly from the website: *'The PlantWatch program enables citizen scientists to get involved by recording flowering times for selected plant species and reporting these dates to researchers, who work to identify ecological changes that may be affecting our environment. When you submit your data it is added to the Web map showing bloom dates across Canada. Your observations make a difference!'*

Personally, I have been recording the flowering of a row of 10 tamarack trees a couple of blocks from my home for about six years. Watching the trees through spring has made me more aware of the weather and the progress of the season. It is very easy to submit data to the PlantWatch website, and I like that I'm contributing science data that will be used in a broader scale. <https://www.naturewatch.ca/plantwatch/>