

What to do in your garden this season



ST. PATRICK'S DAY SPUDS

Planting potatoes is one of the first garden chores of the year. Mid-March can still be blustery and cold in many parts of the country, but it's long been a tradition to plant potatoes on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. You can also observe natural signs—lore says that when dandelions bloom in an open area, the soil is warm enough to plant potatoes.



ORIENT YOUR BEDS

To give your vegetables maximum exposure to the summer sun, a standard rectangular garden bed should run along an east-west axis. Put tall plants such as corn, pole beans, and sunflowers on the north side, so they don't block sun from your shorter plants (the sun's summer arc is high in the sky, and plant shadows tend to fall to the north).



BORAGE FOR BEES

Direct-seed borage into your garden after the last danger of frost has passed. Bees love it, so it will help attract the necessary pollinators to your yard. Best of all, the bright blue, star-shaped flowers are edible—with a taste like cucumber, they can be added to drinks and salads. *Date of last frost for Eugene is estimated to be May 15.*

A GREEN AS GREEN AS GRASS

March is a great time to plant sod or grass seed, as the ground is still moist but warming, and rain still comes fairly frequently. Rake bare patches of ground to rough them up, scatter grass seeds, and cover with a thin layer of soil or compost. Water when necessary.

