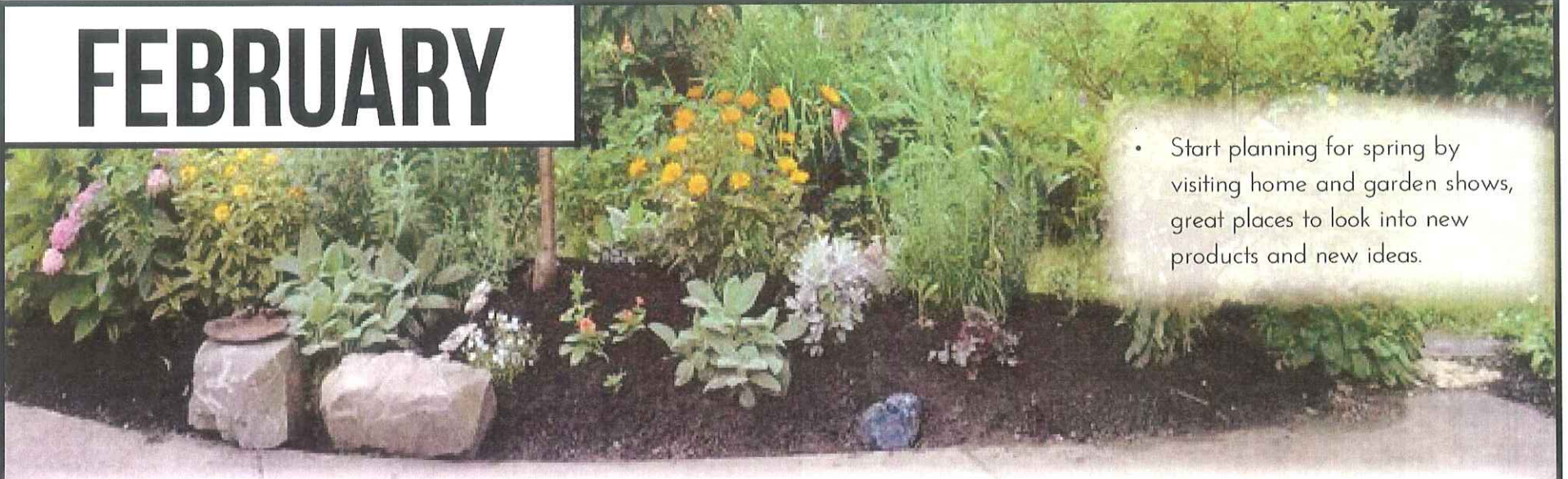


# FEBRUARY



- Start planning for spring by visiting home and garden shows, great places to look into new products and new ideas.

## FALL IN LOVE WITH YOUR LAWN



- Consider reducing the size of your lawn. Start planning to add a rain garden, wild flower meadow, vegetable garden or outdoor entertaining area.

### DID YOU KNOW?

For every 3 inches of snow the soil temperature goes up 1 degree. More snow leads to warmer soils and an earlier planting season.

# MARCH



## DID YOU KNOW?

Studies show mowing your lawn to a height of 4 inches prevents crabgrass as effectively as a chemical herbicide

## Spring Mower Maintenance Checklist

- Sharpen mower blades
- Check filters and replace if necessary
- Clean spark plugs and replace if necessary
- Clean the deck
- Set the blades at 3 or 4 inches

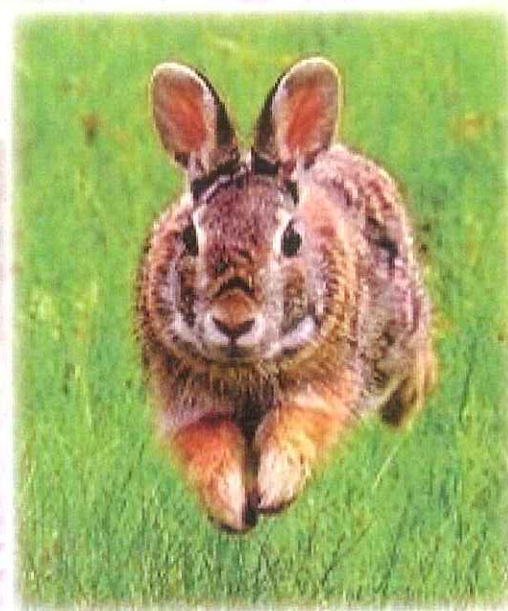
## MOWING MARCH MADNESS

- Get your lawn mower ready for the busy season ahead.
- Every 3 years, soil test in spring (or late fall) to determine what nutrients need to be added to the soil. Testing saves money, time and prevents over application of nutrients. Kits can be found at local Soil and Water Conservation District or Cooperative Extension offices.
- Lightly rake the lawn to remove compacted grass and snow mold caused by excess moisture.
- Start a compost pile with the first grass clippings of the season. Subsequent clippings should be left on the lawn as nature's fertilizer.

# APRIL

## HOP TO IT, GET OUTSIDE

- If soil test results indicate the need, amend your soil. Organic products are best.
- Tolerate some weeds in your yard; they are not the enemy. Plant biodiversity in your lawn provides food for pollinators and beneficial soil organisms. If you must remove weeds try these non-synthetic chemical approaches.
  - Apply corn gluten meal to prevent annual weed seeds from germinating
  - Spot treat existing weeds with an organic weed control product that contains molasses or liquid iron
  - Hand-pull weeds. Purchase a tool to help, like a Speedy Weedy, or encourage your children to pull!



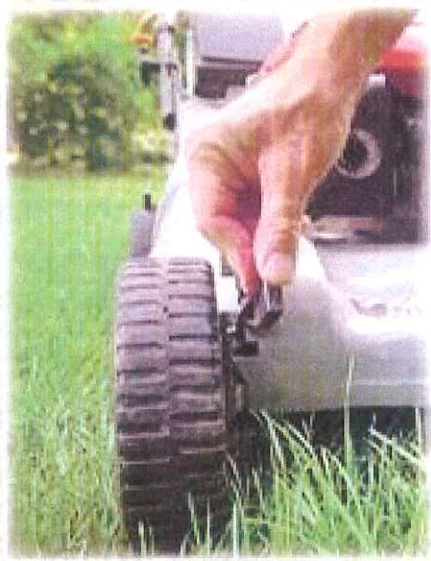
### DID YOU KNOW?

Don't leave fertilizer pellets and grass clippings on your driveway and other hard surfaces! They wash into streams and rivers, blocking water flow and adding unwanted nutrients. Aim your mower so grass clippings stay on the lawn where nutrients are needed!

# MAY

## MOTHER EARTH - TREAT MOM RIGHT

- Mow high at 3 or 4 inches and let clippings lie on the lawn. Save money, time, and prevent over application of nutrients by letting the grass clippings add nitrogen to the soil as nature's fertilizer.
- Don't mulch or compost clippings with annual weed seed heads. Instead, bag it up and dispose of in the trash to prevent more weeds being introduced to your lawn.
- Continue to hand pull or spot treat weeds with an organic weed control spray.
- If Japanese beetle grubs are an issue and soil conditions are right, apply Milky Spore to control the population. One application lasts for 10 years.
- Reduce or eliminate pesticides to protect children and animals.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Beneficial nematodes do more than control grubs? They are also effective on flea and tick larvae, helping keep your pets free of these pests.