

Horticultural Points of Interest – March 2017

- **Garden Cleanup**
 - Stems left on for the Winter
 - Stems of early blooming Perennials such as Epimediums should be cut off and removed now
 - Stems of summer blooming Perennials, Xerics or Perennials prone to Crown Rot should be left in place until new Growth starts at the Base
 - Agastaches, Monarda, Euphorbias, etc
 - Pruning of Shrubs like Butterfly Bushes and Blue Mist Shrubs is best Postponed until new Growth begins
- **Soil Testing and Fertilizing**
 - Check Soil pH and Composition Now
 - Test Kits Online or at Nurseries
 - Helpful for choosing Fertilizers or Corrective Soil Additives
 - Organic Fertilizers should be applied as soon as soil can be worked
 - Slow Release Fertilizers should be applied just as new growth begins
- **Birdhouses**
 - Put out Birdhouses now
 - Buy or Build your own (<http://www.natureskills.com/featured/how-to-build-a-bird-house/>)
 - Do not Paint or Stain the inside
 - Fumes detrimental to Baby Birds
 - Clean out older Birdhouses now
 - Nest materials from last year often includes Parasites
- **Proactive Pest Prevention**
 - Viburnum Beetles and Winter Moths
 - Spraying branches of Shrubs and Tunks of Trees with horticultural Oil suffocates the Eggs
 - Must be done before Eggs Hatch
 - Now is the appropriate time for such spraying
 - Horticultural Oil is quite Safe and certainly much safer than the Sprays required when the Pests are more Mature
 - Voles
 - Active in March
 - Voracious appetite for Plant Matter including Roots and Bulbs at this time of year
 - In summer still eat Roots but may also bite off Stems and eat the entire Plant
 - Mole and Vole Repellents with 10 to 15% Castor Oil are Effective

- **Invasive Watch**

- Garlic Mustard is Spreading throughout this Area



- Biennial Plant with light green leaves that are still somewhat green now
- 1st year plants have much more rounded leaf tips but still with prominent veins
- Crushed leaves smell like combination of onion and garlic
- Plant sends up spire with white flowers in

summer

- Grows almost anywhere including in Woods and along Roadsides
- Spreads very rapidly by seeds and is self-Fertile
- Edible(<http://www.wildwoodsurvival.com/survivalfood/edibleplants/garlicmustard/index.html>)
 - Came from Europe where it is used as an herb