

## The Seasons

Do you ever get confused by garden advice which sometimes tells you what to do in May or June and at other times talks about late spring or early summer? You're not alone. Why can't it all be simple? Unfortunately, plants don't use the same calendars that we do. They react to the weather. Seasons differ from country to country, from region to region and from year to year, especially when our climate is changing. In broad terms spring and fall are the periods when plants are most active and summer and winter the periods when they are dormant. It is this that determines what has to be done when. A starting point in our area is to consider spring March, April & May; summer June July & August; fall September, October & November; and winter December, January & February. However, remember that, depending on the weather, these can move several weeks in either direction. So, although it would be simpler for us if plants would use our calendars, it makes more sense for us as gardeners to use theirs and think in terms of seasons rather than months.