



March Tips

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Now is a good time to start your soil cultivation, and plan for more spring plantings. The danger of frost is small and the soil is slowly starting to warm up. Many gardeners go outside in this month and start to sow beets, carrots, chives, chards, herbs, celery, artichokes, kale, green onions and bulb onions, along with radishes, potatoes, spinaches, peas, and parsley. This is a good time to transplant broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower, but too early for tomatoes and peppers. For an array of lettuces, choose from many different varieties and colors and plant seeds every three weeks till the warmer temperatures arrive.

Using herbs in the landscape works well with different sizes and colors of plants to choose from. Start seeds now for dill, chives, cilantro, fennel, lavender, oregano. Transplant mint, sage, tarragon, and thyme. Rosemary and thyme make good ground covers, while lavender can be used as a small shrub-like perennial.

If you enjoy sowing seeds indoors, sow eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes for planting in the garden in late April or May.

Fruit Trees

Citrus and avocado trees can be planted through May. When planting either citrus or avocado trees choose a site that gets full sun exposure. Citrus and avocados also don't like to have wet roots. The site should dry out between watering. Also it is advisable that you do not plant these trees in a lawn area.

Peaches, nectarines, plums or any other stone fruit trees should not be fertilized with too much nitrogen at this time because it makes too much vegetative growth and results in poor fruit growth. If the trees have 1 to 3 feet of growth annually with dark green leaves then they have sufficient nitrogen.

Ornamentals and Landscape Plants

The featured plant for this month is the [Trumpet Vine](#). By clicking on this link you will get great information on this beautiful plant.

Now is a good time to fertilize bulbs that have been recently planted, or have recently bloomed.

Rose care is important at this time of the year. Powdery mildew can become a problem. Click on this [UC DANR Rose Care](#) link for the latest news and updates.



Landscaping plants

Consider planting annual color plants that survive in drought conditions and neglect. A few suggestions would be alyssum, gazania, cosmos, geranium, marigolds, morning glory, portulaca, verbena, vinca, and zinnia. Wildflowers are a great choice for a larger landscape area. Even if sown in the smaller beds, they give a nice color combination to the landscape when they bloom.

Geraniums come in a wide variety of colors and fragrances and delicate foliage. Leaves are plain, textured, lacy, rippled or variegated, depending on the specific geranium selected.

Prune azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons after the last flower has wilted and before the new foliage starts to grow. If you prune too late after the new growth has started then you are cutting off the next years color. Proper timing for pruning can be as early as February and as late as June depending on the variety and the climate zone you live in.

Shade trees (available in containers can be readily planted in the spring time, when the soil begins to warm. Note: Soil doesn't get to freezing in Southern California. Trees are good for cooling homes in the summertime, eye appeal and for filtering the air that we breathe.

Arbor Day: March 7-14

Get more information about [Arbor Day](#) by clicking on this website.

Control weeds while they are still small. By doing this you eliminate the chance of them reseeding when they get larger. If there are only a few, just pull them out. For larger areas you may need to use a [spray](#) or a weedeater.

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