

April Garden Checklist Angelina County, Texas

- Prune spring-flowering shrubs soon after flowering. Keep the natural shape of the plant in mind as you prune, and avoid excessive cutting except where necessary to control size.
- As soon as azaleas and camellias have finished flowering, apply an acid fertilizer at the rate recommended. Don't over-fertilize, as azalea roots are near the surface and damage can occur. Water thoroughly after fertilizing.
- Mulch ornamental shrubs to conserve moisture, to keep cool in summer heat, to control weeds and to give a neat appearance. Pine straw is an ideal mulch and readily available in Angelina County.
- Roses have high fertilizer requirements. For most soils, use a complete fertilizer for the first application just as new growth starts, then use ammonium sulfate or other high nitrogen source, every 4 to 6 weeks, usually just as the new growth starts following a flowering cycle. For organic sources use cottonseed, rotted manures or alfalfa meal.
- Spray rose varieties susceptible to black spot, using a spray containing triforine (Funginex). Use every 7 to 10 days. Many of the Old Garden roses and some of the newer ones have considerable resistance to black spot.
- Climbing hybrid tea roses may be pruned as soon as they complete flowering.
- Seeds of amaranthus, celosia, cosmos, marigold, portulaca, zinnia and other warm season annuals can be sown directly in the beds where they will grow. Keep seeded areas moist until seeds germinate. Thin out as soon as they are large enough to transplant. Surplus plants can be transplanted to other areas.
- Check annual beds for "volunteer" plants from last year's plants. Thin out and transplant to desired areas. Plants that reseed readily include cleome, celosia, salvia, zinnia, and globe amaranth.
- For instant color, purchase started annual plants. Select short, compact plants. Remove flowers and flower buds to give plants a chance to be established.
- Start weeding early in the flower and vegetable gardens. Early competition with small plants can delay flowering and vegetable production. A mulch will discourage weed growth and make that those do come through easier to pull.
- Seeds leftover after planting can be saved for next year by closing the packets with tape or paper clips and storing in a sealed glass jar in the refrigerator.

- Check new tender growth for aphids. A few can be tolerated, but large numbers should be controlled. Always follow label instructions on approved pesticides for control. Washing them off with a strong spray of water may all that is necessary for adequate control.
- As you do your spring planting be sure to plan how you will water this summer. Place those plants that require the most water closer to the house. Refer to the link “Landscape Water Conservation” for more ideas on watering.
- Remember the pots you plant this spring will need to be watered daily this summer. Consider how much time you will have for watering each day before you plant. Hanging baskets may need to be watered as often as twice a day in the heat of summer.
- It will soon be time for bagworms to attack junipers and other narrow leafed evergreens. Control measures, such as Sevin dust or spray, should be applied while the insects and the bags are about one-half inch in length.
- A good schedule to follow for fertilizing Bermuda grass, Zoysia grass and St. Augustine grass is the "Major Holidays Rule". Divide your total nitrogen requirement for the year by four. Put down this rate of nitrogen on or near each of the four holidays: Easter, Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day.
- Continue planting warm season vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, and melons.
- If your space is limited consider growing vegetables in containers. Containers also require less time, water and effort than a larger garden.

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