

March Garden Checklist

Angelina County, Texas

- March 15 is the average last killing freeze date for Angelina County. Killing freezes can and do occur after this date but it is a good indication. Wait until March 15 to set out plants that can be damaged by frost.
- Consider using raised beds for landscaping and vegetable gardening to avoid problems of poor drainage and poor soil quality. The soil in raised beds drains better and warms up sooner in spring for planting.
- Prepare soil for planting warm-season flowers and vegetables. For every 100 square feet of bed area, work in a 2- to 3-inch layer of organic material such as compost, pine bark, or sphagnum peat moss. Add 4 to 5 pounds of balanced fertilizer per 100 square feet of bed area, and till or spade to a depth of 8 to 10 inches.
- Plan to use plant varieties in your vegetable garden that are recommended for Texas.
- Consider vegetable gardening in containers if you are limited on space or time to garden. Many vegetables are adapted to container gardening.
- Pruning of evergreens and summer flowering trees and shrubs should be completed in early March. Prune spring flowering trees and shrubs as soon as they finish blooming.
- As camellia and azalea plants finish blooming, fertilize them with three pounds of azalea-camellia fertilizer per 100 square feet of bed area. Check mulch on azalea and camellia beds and add where needed. Use pine needles, pine bark, or similar organic materials.
- Remember that many trees and shrubs are damaged or killed each year by the careless application of weed killers, including those found in mixes of fertilizers and weed killers. Always read and follow label directions very carefully. Weeds in a lawn usually indicate a poor lawn-management program, and can usually be crowded out in a healthy turf.
- Fertilize roses every 4 to 6 weeks from now until September.
- Start hanging baskets of petunias, ferns and others for another dimension in landscape color.

- For early color in the landscape, try some of the following annuals as transplants: ageratums, cockscombs, coreopsis, cosmos, cleomes, marigolds, nasturtiums, petunias, phlox, portulaca, salvias, sweet alyssums, sunflowers, and zinnias.
- Divide existing clumps of fall-blooming perennials, such as chrysanthemums, and Mexican Bush-Sage (*Salvia leucantha*).