

April Monthly Reminders



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Cooperative
Extension

Pima County -Master Gardener Program

Planting

- Plant warm season annuals for summer flowering-aster, coneflower, gaillardia, lisianthus, marigold, pentas, portulaca, Madagascar periwinkle and zinnia.
- Plant perennials that provide color and attract pollinators – chamomile, Gooding's verbena, justicia, lantana, Russian sage, and salvias.
- Sow seeds outdoors for cucumbers (English and Armenian), melons, okra, squash, yard-long beans. Transplant eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, and thyme.
- Plant heat-loving vines – Baja passion vine, pink trumpet vine, yellow orchid vine, crossvine (For many others refer to *Landscape Vines for Southern Arizona* [AZ 1606](#))
- Plant fig trees (Refer to *Growing Common Figs in the Low Desert* [AZ 1636](#)).
- Plant citrus trees to give them time to get established before cold weather.

Maintenance

- If plants have yellow leaves with green veins (iron chlorosis) correct with chelated iron.
- Monitor for aphids and spider mites; use a blast of water to discourage them or add one tablespoon of liquid dish detergent to one gallon of water and spray the top and bottom of leaves.
- Flush accumulated salts from the root zones of drip-irrigated plants by watering three times as long as you would normally.
- Protect young plants from wildlife. The best way to keep critters out is to fence them with poultry or woven wire fencing. If rabbits are your problem, use half inch poultry wire. Cage individual plants or entire plantings. The wire fencing should be two to three feet high. Stake the fencing to keep it standing up. If you have problems with ground squirrels or chipmunks, you'll need to use fencing with smaller openings; one-quarter inch woven wire. Cap the top of the fence with woven wire as ground squirrels and chipmunks can climb. Keep the fencing up until plants become more mature and less appealing to wildlife.
- Thin fruit of deciduous trees such as apple, peach, plum and apricot. Pick marble-sized (or smaller) fruit off so that the fruit are spaced about 6 inches part.

Fertilizing

- Fertilize citrus (2nd of 3 annual feedings). For oranges, tangerines, and grapefruit, apply 1/3 of the total in January-February, 1/3 in March-April, and 1/3 in May-June. For lemons and limes, apply 1/3 of the total in January-February, 1/3 in March-April, and 1/3 in August-September. (Refer to *Citrus Fertilization Chart* [AZ1671](#))

Watering

- Check and adjust irrigation frequencies for March-May as per Arizona Department of Water Resources Guide