

March Monthly Reminders



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Cooperative
Extension

Pima County -Master Gardener Program

Planting

- Sow annual seeds outdoors for coreopsis, cosmos, marigold, and zinnia.
- Plant perennials: aloe, angelita daisy, bee balm, blackfoot daisy, California fuchsia, chocolate flower, golden dyssodia, lantana, prairie zinnia, salvias (sages) and tufted primrose.
- Plant shrubs: fairy duster, bee bush, black dalea, little-leaf cordia, Texas rangers and yellow bells.
- Plant trees and shrubs of all types, including citrus. (Refer to *Low Desert Citrus Varieties* [AZ 1001](#)) February and March are the best months to plant bare root trees although they can be planted anytime during the dormant season (between leaf fall and swelling of new buds.) Try to plant 30 days before bud break. Containerized plants are best planted in late September through early October. (Refer to *Planting Guidelines: Container Trees and Shrubs* [AZ 1022](#)).
- Plant container roses in March. (Refer to *Rose Care in the Low Desert* [AZ1305](#))
- Vegetables and Herbs: sow seeds outdoors or plant starts for sweet corn, bush beans, lima beans, spring peas, leafy greens, summer squashes, tomatoes, Mexican oregano and rosemary. Getting an early start means vegetables will be ready prior to the withering heat of June. (Refer to *Ten Steps to a Successful Vegetable Garden* [AZ 1435](#))
- March is the best time to plant new landscape plants. Warm soils and mild temperatures enable plants to establish themselves before hot weather sets in. (Refer to *Plant Selection and Selecting Your Plants* [AZ 1153](#))

Maintenance

- Average last frost date is mid March.
- Monitor new growth for aphids. 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.
- Prune winter damage after danger of freezing has passed. Examples are bougainvillea and lantana. Check the stems for signs of life. With a sharp knife, peel back some of the bark on the outer stems. If there is green sapwood underneath, do not prune these stems as new growth will soon appear. If, on the other hand, the wood beneath the bark is dry and brown, prune back to live wood. (Refer to *Training and Pruning Newly Planted Deciduous Fruit Trees* [AZ 1668](#) and *Pruning Citrus* [AZ 1455](#))
- Thin fruit on deciduous fruit trees including apple, peach, plum, nectarine, and apricot to increase the size and quality. Leave about 6 inches between fruit. This is best done when the fruit is small--about marble-sized.

Watering

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