

Preparing for Spring

The Texas gardening season starts January 1st and ends December 31st.

Springtime preparation should really begin in the fall. However, there are many things you can do now.

Learn to plan at least one season ahead

Plant bulbs in the fall for spring blooms, trim trees in the winter, move perennials around in the fall.

January

- Look through seed catalogs and place orders right away.
- Start tomatoes indoors.
- On any days with fair weather when the soil is dry, dig in compost and start new beds.
- Do tree pruning, and prune fall flowering shrubs.

February

- Prepare new planting areas.
- Start a compost pile.
- Move things around, unless they bloom in the spring.
- Prune back perennials and roses.
- Plant perennials.
- Start seeds indoors for summer vegetables and flowers.
- Plant potatoes on Valentine's Day.
- Plant spinach, onions, kale, cabbage, lettuce, carrots, and chard.
- Plant pansies, alyssum, bare root roses, snapdragons, dianthus, and ornamental kale.



March

- Continue to plant cool season flowers and vegetables.
- Plant containerized perennials.
- Plant tomatoes.
- Be ready to protect tender plants from late frosts.
- Start fertilizing flower and vegetable beds.
- Snail hunting season starts now.
- Trim back any plants that look ragged, unless they are spring blooming only.
- Chop up oak leaves with your mulching lawn mower and use them for mulch in your beds.

April

- Plant warm season vegetables. These include: tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash, and melons.
- Plant warm season flowers. These include flowering perennials and annual flowers, gladiolus, and flowering shrubs.
- This is the very latest time to plant shrubs.
- Fertilize lawn when you have mowed it twice.
- End of month plant caladiums.

May

- Trim plants to keep them compact and blooming longer.
- Do not cut down bulb leaves until they die down naturally.
- Fertilize plantings monthly.
- Mulch all bare soil around plants
- Plant periwinkles.

- Keep vegetables harvested before they get old. Potatoes should begin to be harvest size last of May.
- Bring houseplants out or plant directly into the garden.

Plants for Central Texas

New Gold Lantana (Texas SuperStar™)
 Henry Dalberg salvia (Texas SuperStar™)
 Salvia gregii
 Blue Princess Verbena (Texas SuperStar™)
 Artemisia
 Mullein
 Texas Sage
 Belinda's Dream(Texas SuperStar™)
 The Fairy Rose
 Knockout Rose (Texas SuperStar™)
 Gold Star Esparanza (Texas SuperStar™)
 Candletree
 Flare Hibiscus (Texas SuperStar™)
 Potato Vine
 Coreopsis
 Echinacea (purple cone flower)
 Duranta (Texas SuperStar™)
 Firebush (Texas SuperStar™)
 Daffodils
 Flowering alliums
 Oxblood lilies
 Oxalis

Butterfly Plants

Passionflower
 Fennel
 Parsley
 Butterfly bush
 Butterfly weed

What to add to a new flower or vegetable bed:

- Compost (Put 4-6 inches on top then mix into top 8 inches of soil.)
- Volcanic rock sand, such as lava sand or Texas greensand (according to directions on the bag, about 4 to 8 lbs per 100sq ft)
- Cornmeal-2 pounds per 100 square feet
- Organic fertilizer, per instructions on bag
- Mulch all bare soil

There are three major times to fertilize all plantings:

- 1.Very early spring, around March.
- 2.June
- 3.Between September and October.
- 4.Spray bedding plants with foliar spray all during the growing season.

Tips to Remember:

- 1.Pick the right plant for the right spot and plant it at the right time.
- 2.Almost all plants must have good drainage.
- 3.Fertilize for good production and disease resistance.
- 4.Plan ahead to the next two seasons. There are four growing seasons in Texas—Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall, interrupted briefly by January and August.
- 5.Mulch all bare soil.
- 6.Use compost.

