

March To-Do List for Cameron County Yards and Gardens

Time to plant:

Flowers: ageratum, alyssum, calendula, dianthus, geraniums, kalanchoe, larkspur, Mexican heather, snapdragons, stocks, petunias, vinca.

Trees: **Natives:** chapote, coma del sur, coyote willow, guayacan, mescal bean, retama, Rio Grande ash, tenaza, Texas ebony, Texas sabal Palm.

Shrubs: **Natives:** black brush, chapotillo, heart-leaf hibiscus, low croton, manzanita, Mexican trixis, nopal prickly pear, Texas kidneywood, Turk's cap.

Non-natives (well adapted to Cameron County): dwarf yaupon holly, hibiscus, hybrid lantanas, Japanese boxwood, oleander, pottisporum, shrimp plant, viburnum.

Vegetables: beans (green), lettuce, onions (green), peppers (sweet and hot), radishes, tomatoes, turnips.

Herbs: dill, lavender, all basil, mint, mustard, oregano, parsley, rosemary, spearmint.

Remember:

-Start a weekly check/spray schedule for aphids on roses, hibiscus and other plants. Before spraying check for beneficial ladybugs. ALWAYS read and follow spray label direction for application.

-Till your vegetable garden, add organic matter, pull weeds.

-Add and work in compost to your garden and flower beds.

-Last month to plant roses.

-Take soil samples from your yard and garden for mineral analyses. This is helpful for correct fertilizer applications. Contact the Cameron County Extension Office for details.

-Use mulch when newly planting trees and shrubs.

-Cut Poinsettias to 12 inches above the ground.

-Divide ornamental grasses.

(Information source: *Successful Gardening in the Magic Valley of Texas*, Dist. VI Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. and *Native trees- and Native Shrubs- of the lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas Landscape Uses and Identification*, Native Plant Project, P. O. Box 1433, Edinburg, TX.)