

# Wegman's Nursery March Garden Tips

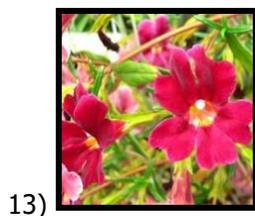
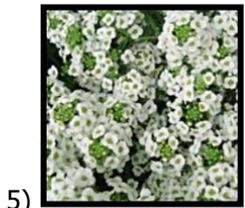
Continue to prepare the soil for planting. By the end of the month, it will be time to plant summer veggies, citrus and summer color. Be sure to work in an inch or two of **Master Nursery® Paydirt** or **Master Nursery® Bumper Crop** plus a few handfuls of **Master Nursery® Vegetable Food Fertilizer** into last year's vegetable area.

## IRRIGATION

Although Mother Nature continues to provide us with various levels of rainfall thus far; we are committed to sharing ideas and tips for finding a balanced approach to our gardening needs. You may have noticed we had been adjusting our care guides as well as our monthly tips to help guide us through the period when rainfall was scarce. To mention a few of these **Care Guides**, we have **Conserving Garden Water**, **Irrigating Plants**, and **Mulching**. Until further notice, bare root trees will require weekly irrigation. Established fruit trees will require monthly deep irrigation starting now. Mature trees and shrubs have adapted to irregularities in weather and climate. With our care, they will continue to flourish.

Water wisely!

## ANNUALS



Summer annuals, such as: 1) Impatiens, 2) Petunias, 3) Marigolds, 4) Fibrous Begonias, 5) Alyssum, 6) Cosmos, 7) Hollyhock, 8) Nemesia, 9) Stock, 10) Snapdragons, 11) Nasturtium, 12) Sweet Peas, 13) Mimulus, 14) and Lobelia are continuing to come in. Throughout March, our selection will grow. *Come in soon!*





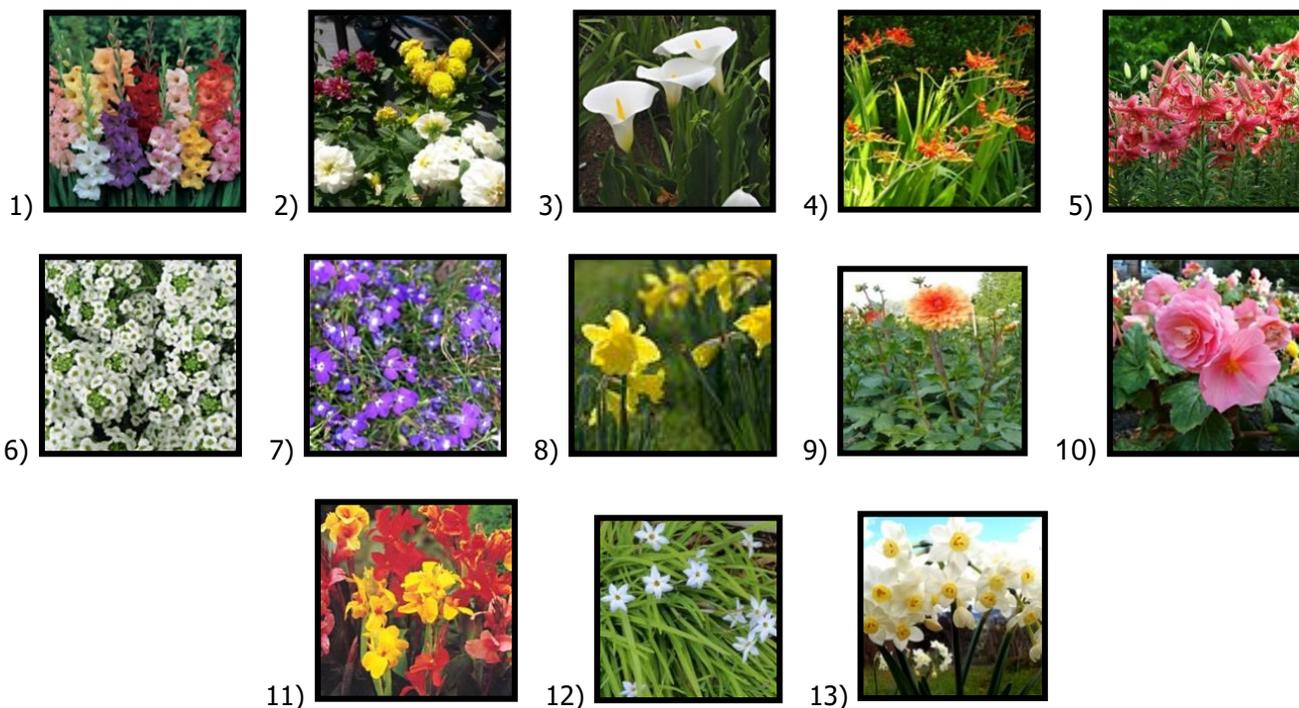
For fast color, continue planting winter annuals such as: 15) Primrose, 16) Fairy Primrose, 17) Primula Obconica, 18) Cineraria and 19) Violas work in shady spots while 20) Pansies, 19) Violas, 21) Iceland Poppies and 21) Stock, work in sunny spots. Pansies and Violas will serve you through summer as well.



Seeds that can be sown directly into the garden are: 22) Forget-Me-Not, 11) Nasturtium, 6) Cosmos, 23) Bachelor Buttons, 5) Alyssum, 14) Lobelia and 24) Erigeron. These should sprout in 10-14 days.

## BULBS

See our new [Care Guide for Summer Bulbs](#).



Summer blooming bulbs are here! Check out our selection: 1) Gladioli, 2) Dahlias, 3) Calla Lilies, 4) Crocosmia, and more. Come early for the best selections!

Plant Asian Lilies 5) by the end of March, however, if you don't have space in your garden beds, grow them in large pots. Plant deeply, (six to eight inches) and cover with 6) Alyssum or 7) Lobelia.

Plant Gladiolus bulbs in two-week intervals through March, April, May and June for continuous bloom. Plant bulbs about four times the depth of the bulb. If you plant the bulbs four to six inches apart, the foliage of individual plants will act as stakes and support flowering spikes of neighboring plants.

Deadhead and feed Daffodils with **Master Nursery® Bulb Food** when they're finished blooming. Fertilizing currently is crucial, as 8) Daffodils soak up the sun and store food in the bulb, for next year's blooms. Bone meal is no longer a complete fertilizer and is not suitable.

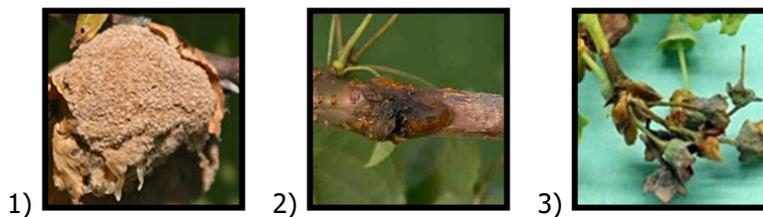
The key to strong and sturdy Dahlias is planting them in 12-inch deep holes and covering them with only three inches of soil. Let them grow those extra 9 inches, gradually covering them with soil as they grow. Planted this way, 9) Dahlias will develop strong and sturdy flower stalks. For the tall Dahlias, put a one inch by one inch by six-foot stake next to the "bulb" when you plant it. See our **Dahlia Care Guide**.

When planting 10) Tuberous Begonias, remember to leave about one-quarter inch of the growing tip exposed. Divide 11) Canna bulbs and transplant or share with friends through mid-March.

Prepare soil for bulbs by broadcasting two inches of a compost product such as **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** and working it into the soil. Broadcast a starter fertilizer such as **Master Nursery® Master Start** under the bulbs before you plant them or work it into the soil with the compost. Alternatively, you can add **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** and **Master Nursery® Master Start** at the bottom of individual holes, being sure to mix in well with native soil. Be sure that bulbs are not in direct contact with fertilizers.

**Apply Master Nursery® Bulb Food** when bulb growth breaks ground and again when they finish blooming.

## FRUITS



Many discussions had with knowledgeable, professional gardeners regarding Brown Rot (1) and canker rot (2) among stone crop fruits, were that during pruning on the Peninsula every peach and nectarine tree over five or six years old was infected. These trees will probably have a short life. The recommendation for home gardeners was to switch to Santa Rosa or Burbank Plums or one of the Pluots (Flavor King, Flavor Queen, Flavor Supreme).

If your fruit trees show flowers or leaves, it is too late for dormant sprays. The past year or two have been particularly bad ones for brown rot and blossom blight on Apricots, a Peaches, and Cherries. Early symptoms (3) are when the flowers turn brown, shrivel up and fail to produce much or any fruit. Cankers appear later. The most effective treatment for brown rot/blossom blight is to prune and remove all diseased parts, in the dormant season. Spraying with Horticultural Oil and **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** may help to control the disease.

Bacterial cankers will ooze sour smelling gum in the fall and winter. Some leaf and flower buds along with small branches may die as the gum ooze spreads and forms new cankers. There is no effective spray, but the winter dormant spray may help. Otherwise remove infected wood and flowers.



Watch for aphids when new leaves are one-half to one-inch long and begin to curl, particularly on Plum trees. Spray with **Monterey Take Down Garden Spray**. Do not spray while there are flowers on the trees as these insecticides are toxic to bees. A non-toxic approach is to 'blast' the aphids with a strong stream of water which will knock off a lot of them. You can also spray with **Safer® Insecticidal Soap**, which will not harm the bees. Before trees come into bloom, spray **Ortho Malathion Max®** on Apple and Pear trees for woolly apple aphids, which appear as a white cottony substance, usually in crevices, healed pruning cuts and in the soil next to the trunk.

Paint deciduous fruit tree trunks with a white, water-based indoor latex paint, cut 50% with water. This is especially important for young trees and trees planted in blazing hot locations.

If you haven't had a chance to prune your fruit trees, it's still safe to prune. You can also wait to prune during bloom. If you're unsure of which wood will fruit, trees in flower are great learning opportunities. Just remember that each flower is a potential fruit! Leave some of those and remove the rest



Fire blight was a serious problem on Pears and some Apples last year. If you had this problem, you will need to spray **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** again before or during the bloom period in addition to cutting out diseased tissue. Do not use any Horticultural Oil with the **Monterey Liqui-Cop®**.

Watch for 'bleeding' or oozing of sticky sap from stone fruit trees which may indicate Bacterial Canker (as shown above). If the sap is clear, there is usually no problem, but amber-colored sap indicates a potential problem and will require spraying as trees come into bloom. Check our individual **Fruit Tree**

**Care Guides** for details and see above.

Select and plant citrus beginning mid to late March, after the danger of frosts has passed.

Citrus can be pruned now if desired or needed. Check now for scale as shown in photo to the right. This sucking insect usually clusters along fruit stems, new growth and the undersides of leaves. If found, the U.C. Agricultural Extension Service recommends that you, spray the tree with a mixture of **Ortho Malathion Max®** and **Horticultural Oil**. Wait two weeks for a second application, and never spray oil more than four times during the growing season. Ants running up and down the trunk often indicate the presence of scale, so look carefully, as more than one kind of scale may be present.



Citrus leaf miner is a new pest. As you can see in the photos above, their trails can be seen in the leaf. See our **Citrus Care Guide** for two options for dealing with this pest.

The Asian citrus psyllid and the deadly Huangbinglong (HLB) disease that it spreads threaten citrus trees in backyards and on farms. The psyllid arrived in Southern California in 2008, and the HLB disease was first detected in Los Angeles in 2012. All types of citrus – including oranges, grapefruit, lemons, and mandarins. For more information please visit [www.californiacitrusthreat.org](http://www.californiacitrusthreat.org) or call the California Department of Food and Agriculture hotline at 1-800-491-1899. You can also download the "Save Our Citrus" Smartphone app to help you identify and report the pest and disease.

Fertilize citrus in March, May, July, September and November. In November, we also like to spread **chicken manure** around the base of trees (avoiding the trunk) to give them a slow nitrogen source during the rainy season.



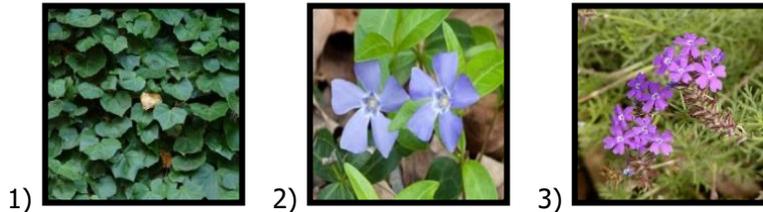
Olive Fruit Flies can now be controlled with **Monterey Garden Insect Spray** or **Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew®**. The active ingredient in both products is **Spinosad**. Spinosad is an upgraded bacterial product and is accepted as an organic product. It must be used in conjunction with an **Olive Fruit Fly Trap**, so you know when to spray your trees. Use two ounces (four tablespoons) of product per gallon of water.



Coddling Moth (wormy Apples and Pears) is most effectively controlled with a single spray of **GardenTech Sevin®** about one week after the entire flower petals have dropped so that bees are not harmed. Spray **GardenTech Sevin®** once more one month later.

We have a large variety of Strawberry plants at the nursery, such as Albion, Sequoia, Eversweet, Alpine Red and Alpine Yellow, just waiting for a home in your garden.

## GROUNDCOVERS



Mow low-growing groundcovers such as: 1) Ivy, 2) Periwinkle and 3) Peruvian Verbena. Then fertilize with **Master Nursery® Formula 49™** and irrigate until the top three to four inches of the soil surface is damp.

Slugs and snails are especially abundant and troublesome this time of year, reproducing and resting in groundcovers. Baiting now will help minimize extant populations and minimize damage in the coming spring. Use **Monterey Sluggo®**; safe for pets and people, or **Deadline®**, these are more effective than Corry's and similar products.

## LAWNS

Spread seed or lay sod March through May. For details on preparing an area for installation, check out our **Sod Care Guide**. Sod orders placed with Wegman's usually take two to three days for delivery. Call us for details!



Feed lawns with **Master Nursery® Fall & Winter Feed for Lawns**. If your lawn has been beset with dead spots which seem to grow, the problem is probably insect grubs which can be eliminated with **Bayer Advanced™ Grub Control** or organically with **Nematodes**. Apply them now. These herbicides are most effective on new growth as it appears.

If you have had problems with Bermuda grass in your lawn, apply **Monterey Turflon Ester®**, which also controls annual and perennial broadleaf weeds in established lawns. For crabgrass, as well as a host of other tenacious broadleaf weeds, use **Bayer® All in One Lawn Weed & Crabgrass Killer**.

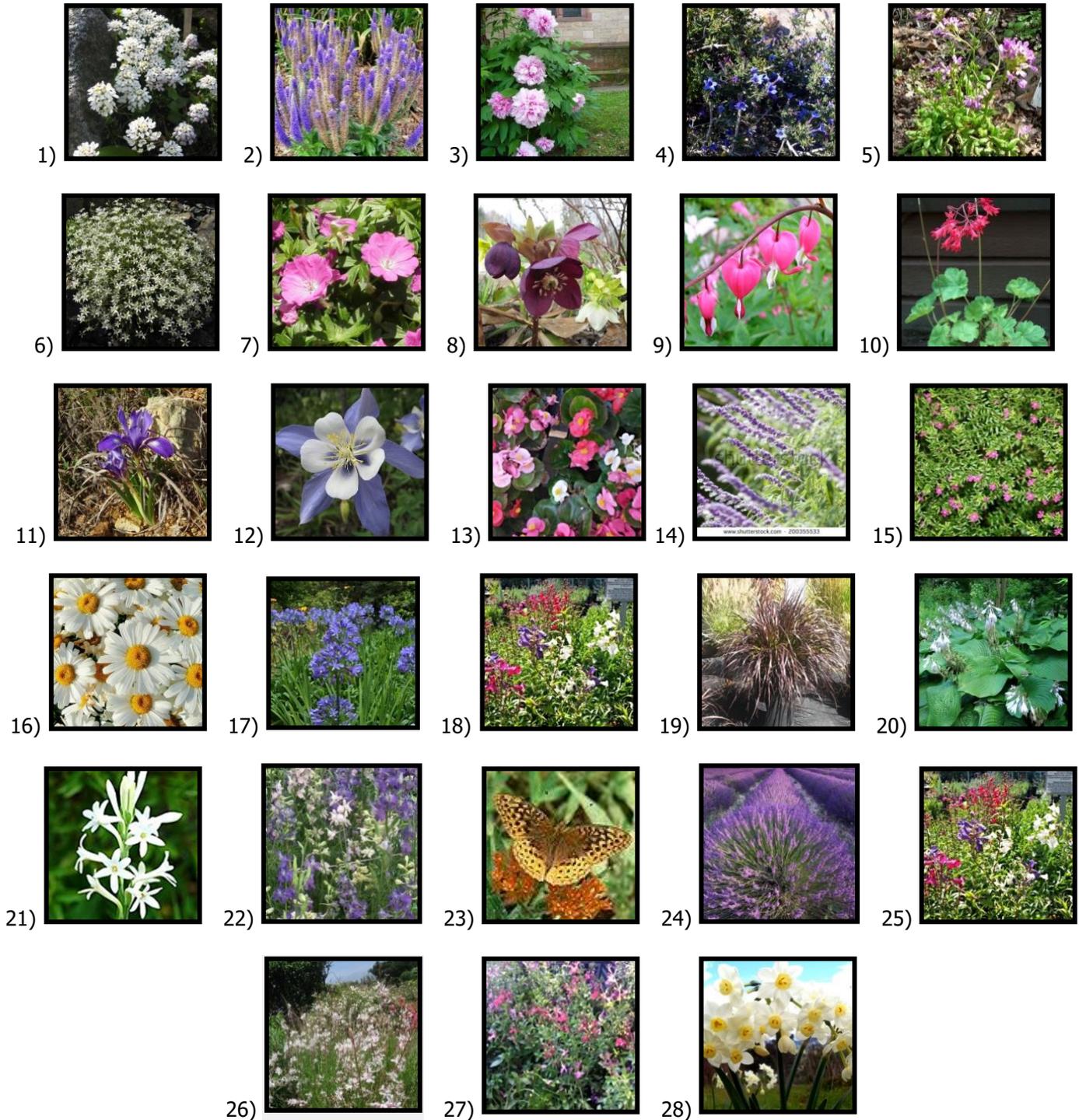
For Oxalis and Broadleaf weeds, use **Monterey Turflon® Ester** (one teaspoon to one gallon of water); a liquid that can be sprayed over entire lawns. Our most effective herbicide for creeping Wood Sorrel (Oxalis) is **Monterey Turflon® Ester**. One application will often control this weed. An effective, all organic, pre-emergent weed killer is **Concern® All-Natural Weed Prevention Plus®** (made from corn gluten).

Remember: You cannot use pre-emergent products for three to four months prior to seeding a lawn or laying sod. You can, however, use **Monterey Turflon Ester®** or **Master Nursery® Kleen-Up** three to four days before seeding or laying sod.

Before installing see our **Sod Care Guide**.

It's time to set mowers to summer levels: two and one-half to three inches for Fescue and Bluegrass lawns and one to one and one-half inches for Bermuda grass lawns.

# PERENNIALS



Spring is underfoot! Check out these spring bloomers for sun: 1) Iberis, 2) Veronica, 3) Peony, 4) Lithodora, 5) Arabis, 6) Arenaria, and the true 7) Geraniums (*Geranium sanguineum*, *G. Johnson's Blue*, *G. Macrorrhizum*, etc.). For the shade, check out the 8) Hellebores, 9) Bleeding Heart, 10) Coral Bells, 11) Douglas Iris, 12) Columbine and 13) Fibrous Begonia.

Check perennials for frost damage. 14) Mexican Sage, 15) Mexican Heather and other sensitive perennials may need to be pruned or replaced.

Perennials such as 16) Shasta Daisies, 17) Agapanthus or 18) Penstemon which may have become crowded or do not bloom as vigorously as in the past should be divided now. Dig the whole clump and gently separate into parts or hose off soil and divide. Amend soil in new area with one-quarter to one-third **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** or **Master**

**Nursery® Bumper Crop** and replant the divisions. Fertilize the new plantings with **Master Nursery® Formula 49™** after two to three months.

Perennial grasses, such as 19) Purple Fountain Grass, can still be cut back. Fertilize lightly with a lawn fertilizer that does not contain an herbicide.

To control Bermuda grass and crabgrass use **Bayer® All in One Lawn Weed & Crabgrass Killer** may be used for other tenacious broadleaf weeds such as dandelions and plantain, etc., without harming lawns when used as directed. **Trimec®** and **Trimec® Plus** weed killer eliminates over 200 other weeds.

Bait now with **Monterey Sluggo®** or **Deadline®**. Especially vulnerable are perennials such as 12) Columbine, 20) Hosta, Tuberose and 24) Delphinium.

Plant 23) Asclepias Tuberosa (Butterfly weed) from seed if you want to attract Monarch butterflies this coming summer and fall.

Cut back all perennials such as 24) Lavender, 18) Penstemon, 26) Guara, 27) Salvia, etc. if not already done so. Lavender should be trimmed after each blooming, but never into leafless stems or after October.

## ROSES

Resume your summer watering schedule.



As new leaves emerge, watch for aphids. Apply **Safer® Insect Killing Soap** or **Monterey Take Down Garden Spray** or **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil**.

Rub off leaf buds that are facing the center of the plant. This will redirect growth to outward buds and help keep the center of the bush open. Watch for sucker sprouts and remove by tearing them off at the base not by clipping.



Climbers such as 1) Cecile Brunner, 2) Lady Banks and 3) Belle of Portugal, which bloom only once, are not to be pruned until after they have bloomed.

Prevent weeds in Rose beds by applying **Concern Weed Prevention Plus** (8-2-4). This product contains corn gluten, which prevents seeds from germinating and contains 8% nitrogen, providing a slow-release fertilizer.

Begin monthly feedings with **Master Nursery® Rose & Flower Food** or your favorite organic fertilizer. You can supplement with two applications of **Alfalfa meal**; once in March and again in June. Alfalfa contains the chemical triacontanol, which spurs the formation of new canes. University tests have found that Epson Salts (Magnesium Sulfate) are of no value and may hinder plant growth and flower development.

If you haven't done so, put two to four inches of **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** or **Master Nursery® Bumper Crop** over the Rose beds to maintain a good level of mulch.

## SHRUBS & VINES



Some of our big shipment of 1) Rhododendrons have arrived from Oregon. We carry over 30 hybrids, and we're especially pleased to offer such great plants at low prices.

Many fragrant shrubs and vines bloom in early spring, taking our senses out of winter slumber. Examples of shrubs to consider check out: 2) Boronia, a Mediterranean climate native, 3) Ceanothus and 4) Lilac for full sun and 5) Daphne, 6) Choisya and 7) Sarcococca for shade. For vines, check out: 8) Pink Jasmine, which grows well in full to part sun (better bloom in full sun) and, 9) Wisteria. For shadier areas consider: 10) Evergreen Clematis and 11) White Potato Vine for shadier areas.

You should be noticing hummingbirds in action as the days warm up. They're hungry! To attract hummingbirds to your garden, the old-fashioned way, plant any of the 12) Grevilleas, 13) Coleonema, 14) Callistemon, 15) Salvia Greggii and

the native 16) *Arctostaphylos*. Consider the following plants in areas getting part sun; 17) *Abutilon* or any of the 18) *Fuchsias*. All these plants provide early nectar for these garden friends. Again, remember that if you spray poisons on the flowers, you get the good bugs as well as the bad, and can make the hummers sick.

The garden wakes up in late winter/early spring as many of the Mediterranean natives begin to bloom. Some plants to think about are; 19) *Astartea*, 20) *Grevillea*, 21) *Eriostemon*, 13) *Coleonema*, 22) *Hardenbergia*, 23) *Correa*, and 24) *Leptospermum*. While you may not be familiar with these plants, they make excellent additions to the landscape with their early bloom, deer-resistance, and tolerance to wet winters and dry summers.

*Wisteria* should be pruned before it blooms. Establish a main framework of canes or branches and cut all secondary growth back to two or three buds. See our [Wisteria Care Guide](#).

Fertilize evergreen shrubs and vines now with **Master Nursery® Formula 49™** (8-4-4 plus minor elements).

Now's a good time to select 25) *Camellias* and 26) *Azaleas*, as their flurry of color continues.



Both *Camellias* and *Azaleas* are susceptible to petal blight, which appears as brown splotching on petal margins of open flowers, partly open flowers and flower buds. A fungus causes both petal blights. *Camellia* petal blight can be partially controlled through sanitation. Remove infected flowers and buds and try not to let infected petals hit the ground. If they do, gather and place in trash immediately—do not compost! *Azalea* petal blight is controlled by spraying with **Bonide® Fung-onil™** (Chlorothalonil) before the buds open.

Now through late March, prune tender shrubs and vines (25 °F-30° F) such as; 11) *Potato Vine*, 27) *Bougainvillea*, 17) *Abutilon*, 28) *Geraniums*, 29) *Lantana*, 30) *Mandevilla*, and 18) *Fuchsia*.

*Fuchsias* grown in containers should be re-potted yearly, usually late February or early March. See our [Fuchsia Care Guide](#). *Fuchsias* whether in the ground or in pots should also have one-half of their total top growth pruned off. Plant up into larger containers or root-prune. If you prune the roots, remove about one-quarter to one-third of the root mass and add fresh soil to the pot. If you were troubled with crinkly, gnarly, leaves on your *Fuchsias* last year (*Fuchsia mites*) start your monthly spray schedule with **GardenTech Sevin®** when leaves are one-half inch long.



This month marks the last application of **Aluminum sulphate** (blue) or **lime** (pink) to intensify *Hydrangea* flower color. Use Oyster shell Lime, which contains calcium carbonate, an excellent addition to our soils. Remember, apart from 'Endless Summer' you cannot make Blue *Hydrangea* flowers pink or vice-versa. See our [Hydrangea Care Guide](#).

## TREES

Wait to prune flowering *Cherries*, *Plums* and *Pears* until after bloom. If you have had problems with Shot-Hole fungus on cherries or plums, spray before and after flowering with **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** or **Bonide® Fung-onil™** (Chlorothalonil).

Come check out our selection of *Magnolias* as they begin to bloom! We carry the classic saucer *Magnolia* as well as some more unusual varieties that grow up to 15-20 feet and feature distinctively different flower forms and colors.

The first shipments of *Japanese Maples* have begun arriving. These trees are field-grown in Oregon, then planted in containers and held for one additional year to root-in and be pruned to shape. This year's selection includes *Bloodgood*, *Bonfire*, *Burgundy Lace*, *Fireglow*, *Emperor I*, *Oshio Beni*, *Red Dragon*, *Shaina*, *Seiryu*, *Shishigashira*, *Sango Kaku*, *Crimson Queen*, *Garnet*, *Inabe Shidare*, *Tamukeyama*, *Viridis*, and *Waterfall*. We'll also be carrying some unusual and harder to find varieties in 1-gallon and specimen sizes.

Now is the best time to shop for and to plant large containerized *Conifers*. Early spring's cooler and moister conditions assist *Conifers* to become established more readily than at other times of the year.

The Asian Gypsy Moth continues to threaten oak trees and other hardwoods as can be seen in numerous trees with caterpillars hanging on their delicate threads. Spray with **Monterey Bt** or **Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew®** (Spinosad) while they are still small. The moth also poses a threat to fruit trees.

Look for broken and torn branches after storms. Prune to healthy tissue, using heading cuts if parts of branches are broken or torn and remove entire branches if needed. If severe damage is done to older, mature trees, we strongly encourage you to seek the services of an arborist. While you may pay more for their work, you can be assured that the health and longevity of your trees will not be compromised by poor practices such as topping and incorrect cuts. "Topping" a tree is considered a cardinal sin by the tree gods.

## VEGETABLES

Begin planting summer vegetables and herbs in late March. Remember to amend soil liberally, as vegetable crops deplete nutrients from soils rather quickly. We like **Master Nursery® Gold Rush**, which includes chicken manure, supplemented with **Master Nursery® Tomato and Vegetable Food**. See our **Care Guide for Summer Vegetable Gardening** for preparing, planting and fertilizing your vegetable garden.



Now would be a good time to plant; 1) Horseradish, 2) Rhubarb, and 3) Artichokes.



Cool season greens can be planted throughout spring into summer. 1) Lettuce, 2) Spinach, 3) Cilantro, 4) Chard, and 5) Mustard will all perform well.

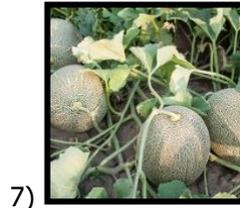
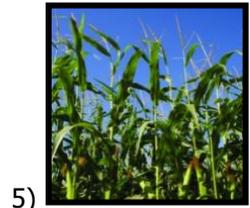
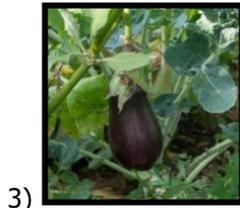
**Monterey Garden Insect Spray** (Spinosad) can be used up to one day before harvest on most vegetables. This is especially good news for controlling leaf miners in Chard and other crops, but it will not work on aphids and other sucking insects; for them use **Safer® Brand Insect Killing Soap** or **Monterey Take Down Garden Spray**.



Continue planting 1) Onions from starts and 2) Garlic from cloves.



Continue to plant Potatoes until April.



Start 1) Tomatoes, 2) Peppers, 3) Eggplants, 4) Squash, 5) Corn, 6) Basil, and 7) Melons indoors or in greenhouses. Early Girl seedlings will be available near the end of the month and can go in the ground by the end of March. Early Girl fruits will be ready in about 54 days. If soil temperatures are below 55° F, no growth will take place and the seedlings will sit there and be food for birds and snails. Don't plant in the ground yet.

Unique Heirloom and organic tomatoes are finding their way to Wegman's .... Stop by soon to see what's new!

Check out the "Wall of Water" display to see how you can give your tomatoes a greenhouse environment in a container.



If you grow plants from seeds (Acorn Squash to Zucchini) give them a boost with bottom heat from one of our **Seedling Heat Mats**. The mats are also used to speed rooting of cuttings (Azaleas to Zauschneria).

## OTHER THINGS TO DO

Be aware of mosquito larva swimming in a bird bath. They are already out there so dump pots with water or apply a few sprinkles of **Quick Kill Mosquito Bits** or **Mosquito Dunk** into larger containers of water. These are organic products; harmless to pets and people.

Check your drip systems now: flush out sediments, check for algae and scrub screens and emitters with a toothbrush if necessary. Turn on water and make sure all emitters are working properly and there are no leaks in the lines. See our **Irrigating Plants Care Guide**.

Begin fertilizing container plants with an appropriate granular fertilizer. As a rule of thumb, measure the diameter of the container and divide by six. Use that many level tablespoons of granular fertilizer. Continue monthly through October. If you are a fan of liquid fertilizers, begin applications in late March.

Sharp pruning tools make clean cuts that heal quickly. Check out our Pruning Tool Renovation service, which includes cleaning and sharpening and replacing missing parts. If you're unsure whether we can service your tool, bring it in for assessment.

Check your potted plants to see whether they will need re-potting this season. If so, re-pot at the end of the month. You can plant up into larger containers or root-prune and replant in the same container. When root-pruning, prune away one-quarter to one-third of the root mass, about one-third of the top, and re-pot in **Gardner & Bloome® Organic Potting Soil**.

Once a month, irrigate your potted plants with water to which one tablespoon of vinegar per gallon of water has been added. This will help to acidify the soil and dissolve excess fertilizer.