

PLANT RANCH NURSERY

THINGS TO DO IN MARCH

- 1.** Decide on a maintenance plan for your St. Augustine lawn this year. If you have another lawn type, call your local extension office for information. For a moderate lawn maintenance plan, fertilize your St. Augustine grass three times per year, in Feb, May and September. Located on our tips page you will find “St. Augustine Fertilizer/Maintenance Schedule” which can be printed for you use.
- 2.** Rake dead grass to allow new grass to grow. This will increase the effectiveness of fertilizers and pesticides applied to the lawn. Use the leaves as a mulch or add to your compost pile.
- 3.** Prune and fertilize azaleas after they finish blooming. Use an acid fertilizer, such as Espoma Holly-Tone for acid loving plants, and follow label directions. Do not prune azaleas after June as late pruning will remove next years blooms.
- 4.** Inspect sago palms for Asian cycad scale. Look at the underside of leaves for white specks. This scale is difficult to control as it also infects the root system of the plant. This scale should not be ignored as it can kill plants within a year if left untreated. We have had reasonably good success in controlling this scale using Ultrafine summer oil spray or malathion and oil spray. As a preventive use a systemtic such as disyston in addition to the oil sprays.
- 5.** Prune any cold weather-damaged plants after new growth appears. If the plant is pruned before new growth begins, too much may be removed, and it will take longer to recover. Prune ornamental grasses before new growth appears.
- 6.** Begin heavy pruning of hedges anytime after mid-March. To encourage bushy growth, prune just prior to bud swell. To retard growth, prune just after growth flush, once leaves have fully expanded.
- 7.** Start planting tender annuals and vegetables. Be prepared to protect these plants from late-season frost. Use straw or newspaper. Cover with plastic for hard-freeze protection.
- 8.** If roses were not pruned in February prune back to a few strong canes being certain to remove all dead wood. Climbing roses can be pruned back lightly as they boom. Always remove old leaves and debris from around your rose.

9. Woody plants and trees should be fertilized this month using Espoma holly tone fertilizer for your acid loving plants and Espoma plant tone for all around results. Fruit trees including citrus and pecans should be fertilized this month using Espoma citrus tone to avoid nutrient deficiencies.

10. Plant poinsettias in landscape during late March to early April. Cut back plant to within 12 to 16 inches of ground level. Pinch back new growth every four weeks until Sept. 10. Fertilize monthly from May to September.

11. Fertilize palms every two months starting in March and continuing through September using a granular Palm fertilizer or Palm spikes which can be used twice a year or as needed..

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