



Guilford Gardening Journal

Timely Tips for Your Central North Carolina Garden

March

Ornamentals & Houseplants

- Be on the lookout for the return of insects such as aphids, mealy bugs and mites.
- Hand-pull winter weeds from landscape beds.
- Prune hybrid tea roses severely this month to force healthy new growth.
- Caladium tubers can be started inside during March. This allows them time to begin growth which can be slowed with the cold soil.
- Fertilize spring flowering bulbs as the foliage emerges as indicated by soil test results.

Edibles

- Prepare soil for spring planting but wait until soil is dry enough to be worked.
- Plant potatoes, peas, onion, lettuce and other salad crops along with broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage.
- Start seeds inside for tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumber and other warm season vegetables.
- Finish pruning young fruit trees this month along with figs and grapes if they need it.

Lawns

- Look out for and control winter annual weeds such as chickweed and henbit before they flower and set seed. This year's seed is next year's weed!
- If you didn't fertilize in February, you can do it in early March, but before March 15! Applications should be based on 1 lb. of nitrogen per thousand sq. ft. The next fertilizer application will be made in September.
- Begin mowing cool-season grass as it starts to grow. Mow to 3 - 3 ½ inches high.

Trees & Shrubs

- Prune overgrown shrubs before new growth begins. Don't prune spring blooming shrubs until after they finish blooming.
- Mulch around trees and shrubs but keep mulch away from trunks.

Miscellaneous

- Check that garden tools & equipment are in good working order.

For further information on these topics or any other gardening questions, please call our InfoLine at 336-641-2404 to speak with a Master Gardener volunteer or send an email to guilfordmg@gmail.com .

Taylor Jones, Extension Agent
Agriculture – Consumer & Home Horticulture
Guilford County Cooperative Extension
336-641-2400



NC State University and N.C. A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity and prohibit discrimination and harassment regardless of age, color, disability, family and marital status, genetic information, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), gender identity, sexual orientation and veteran status. NC State, N.C. A&T, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by 5 business days before the event to Lauren Taubert at 336-641-2400.