

GARDENING IN MARCH - Watch the weather forecasts closely. Be prepared to cover/uncover, cover/uncover your tender early vegetable plants as some years the entire month of march here in Garland can be fickle.

- Average last freeze is around March 12, and yet it still could be very balmy and pleasant most of the month. Freezing weather mainly affects the timing of planting cold-sensitive plants, like tomatoes.
- Pruning of evergreen and summer flowering trees and shrubs should be completed this month. But, prune spring flowering shrubs (forsythia, quince, azaleas, spirea, etc) only after they finish blooming, if needed. Hydrangeas also bloom on prior year's growth, so prune after they bloom.
- Planting of cool season vegetables (transplant broccoli, cabbage, and collards, and seed carrots, collards, mustard greens, lettuce, radish, turnips, Swiss chard and spinach) should be finished real soon, and summer vegetables can begin to be sown and transplanted later in March. Delay planting okra, sweet potatoes, okra and peppers until April since they don't do well in cool soil.
- Watch out for aphids that rapidly build up on tender new growth. They can be controlled with a sharp stream of water or insecticidal soap.