



APRIL

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

in the garden



BIRDS AND WILDLIFE:

- Supplement your hummingbird-friendly plants with sugar-water feeders. Use one part sugar and four parts water.

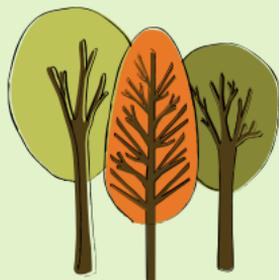
COLOR:

- Plant warm weather bedding plants: lantanas, begonias, firebush, impatiens, portulaca, coleus, and zinnias. Periwinkles in late May.
- Resist cool-season plants on sale now. That season is over...that's why they're on sale.
- Maintain your spray program for roses.
- Fertilize the roses this month if not done last month.
- Let bougainvillea get root-bound and stressed between waterings for blooms.
- Hibiscus food works well for container-grown plants.



SHADE TREES AND SHRUBS:

- Do NOT prune oak trees now.
- You can still plant new shrubs and trees this month if they are container-grown.
- It's too late to plant bare-root trees now.
- Prune pillar or climbing roses, wisteria, and Carolina jasmine after they flower.



FRUITS AND NUTS:

- There is still time to thin late-season peaches, apples, and plums. Thin to one fruit per 6-8 inches of stem.
- Fertilize pecan trees in early April with 21-0-0 (1 lb. per inch of trunk diameter) to encourage good nut production.



VEGETABLES:



- Plant vegetables such as tomatoes, sweet corn, snap beans, and peppers. You can also plant cucumbers, lima or butter beans, cantaloupe, okra, southern peas, pumpkin, squash, peanuts, and watermelon.
- Write down what, when, and where you plant what so you'll know next time.
- Plant eggplant, green beans, sweet corn, radishes, and carrots later in the month.
- Mulch around the veggies with leaves, straw, or hay.
- Harvest potatoes after they start blooming.
- Control snails, slugs, and pillbugs with baits or beer traps. (Note: they like Budweiser best.)
- Thinning vegetables is one of the most important follow-up activities in gardening.
- Use drip irrigation on veggies.

TURF GRASS:

- Does the lawn need some "fixing"? Fix the problem and not the symptoms. Replace dead grass with the same kind of grass.
- Fertilize lawn using a slow-release lawn fertilizer with a ratio of 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 NPK—Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), and Potassium (K)—for example, 18-6-12, 19-5-9, 20-6-12. If you use organic fertilizer, use about twice as much.
- Don't start automatic sprinkler systems unless we haven't had rain for at least 2 weeks.



ORNAMENTALS:

- Remove pansies, snapdragons, dianthus, calendulas, kale, and other winter plants when they get ragged.
- Plant caladium tubers after mid-month. Impatiens, fibrous begonias, and coleus are summertime favorites for shade.
- Do not remove leaves of spring-flowering bulbs. They're feeding the bulbs while they're green.
- Don't place plants that have been indoors all winter into direct sunlight.

