

## GARDEN CHECKLIST FOR MARCH

In this weeks article I want to mention things gardeners need to be considering for March. The following is a garden checklist:

- Last call to sign up for the Baxter County Master Gardener Seminar on March 13 at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Mtn. Home. Seminar topics will include flowers, easy care roses, ornamental grasses, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, overview of the Baxter County Master Gardener Program and soil testing. There is a fee of \$10 to attend the seminar. Attendance is limited and pre-registration is required. To register: send name, address, phone number, email address (for confirmation), and a \$10 check payable to BCMG, to the following address by March 6<sup>th</sup>: BCMG Seminar, 281 Lorraine Place, Mtn. Home, AR 72653.
- Now is as late as you want to get if you want to use glyphosate to control winter weeds in your bermuda yard. If you wait too much longer your bermudagrass will begin to green-up. Check bermuda first for signs of green-up. Look up against sidewalks and buildings where bermuda would start growing the earliest. Do not use glyphosate if your bermuda has started to green-up.
- Wait to fertilize fescue lawns until they have started growing good. You could even wait until April to fertilize them. If you have some bare spots or a thin lawn, now is the time to seed tall fescue.
- Spray broadleaf weeds in lawns with a broadleaf weed killer such as Trimec. Spray weeds after we have had a few days of 60°F or higher temperature.
- Pre-emerge herbicides can be used (apply between March 15 to April 1) on lawns to control early weeds and crabgrass. Don't apply pre-emerge on newly seeded lawns, however.
- Fertilize pansies. This is a prime blooming and growing month for them.
- March is a good time to plant trees and shrubs. Be sure to remove ties and strings around balled-in-burlap plants. Cut the burlap in several places. Don't leave any burlap above the ground as it can wick moisture away from the plant.
- Bareroot plants, those in plastic sleeves, must be planted while dormant. If they are leafed out and growing, avoid purchasing them. They are bargain priced for a reason.
- Avoid moving houseplants outside until late April.
- Avoid planting tender vegetables and bedding plants until mid to late April when frost danger is past.
- A general rule of thumb is divide fall bloomers in the spring and spring bloomers in the fall. Dig and divide hostas, chrysanthemums and sedums.
- Give ornamental grasses such as liriope a haircut to remove old leaves. This should be done before new growth begins.

- Before heading out to the nursery for new plants, have a plan in mind. Space new plants according to eventual size, not what they are now. Ask about sunlight requirements, moisture and growth habits. Proper selection can relieve a lot of headaches later.
- Prune hybrid tea roses if not done already. Roses should be pruned in late February or early March.
- Prune fruit trees, grape vines, and blueberry plants. These should all be pruned while dormant. Peaches can be pruned even while blooming, just be careful not to knock off the blooms.
- Prune crepe myrtles, buddleias, and summer blooming spireas.
- Overwintering tropicals should be sheared back.
- Start seeds indoors for tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants.
- Continue to plant cool-season vegetables.
- Allow bulbs six weeks of growth after bloom.
- Evergreens needing pruning should be pruned now.
- Prune spring blooming plants after bloom.

For more information on any of the above points, contact the Baxter County Cooperative Extension office at 425-2335.

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