

CHORES

Planting vegetables



March is the month to plant many vegetables in North Texas. You can start this weekend, as long as no freeze is forecast. Here's when to plant seeds (and a couple of transplants). Expect seedlings to emerge from the ground within a week to 10 days.

Rick Rosen

VEGETABLES	WHEN TO PLANT
Asparagus	After Feb. 1
Beans, snap bush	March 5-May 1
Beans, snap pole	March 5-April 15
Beans, lima bush	March 15-April 15
Beans, lima pole	March 15-April 15
Chard, Swiss	Feb. 1-March 10
Collards	Feb. 1-March 25
Corn, sweet	Feb. 25-May 1
Cucumber	March 5-May 1
Eggplant	March 15-May 1
Lettuce	Feb. 1-March 15
Muskmelon (cantaloupe)	March 15-May 1
Mustard	Feb. 1-April 1
Peas, Southern	March 25-May 20
Pepper (transplant)	March 15-May 1
Radish	Feb. 1-May 1
Squash, summer	March 5-May 1
Squash, winter	March 5-May 1
Sweet potato (slips)	April 10-May 15
Tomato (transplant)	March 15-April 10
Turnip	Feb. 1-March 10
Watermelon	March 15-May 1

SOURCE: Texas Cooperative Extension

Cardboard path shows the way

I would like your opinion about using wood chips over cardboard to cover a garden walkway. The path is between raised beds that are bordered by cinder blocks.

V.C., Shreveport, La.

That should work fine. The mulch and cardboard will break down over time, so they need to be replenished occasionally.

Is there any kind of seed I can broadcast over a bare lawn at a rent house? The tenants (college students) do not water, so I'm looking for something drought-tolerant. The site is mostly sunny.

I'm open to anything green: a cover crop, groundcover or grass seed.

S.H., Houston

I would broadcast a mix of Bermuda and buffalo grass seeds after roughing up the soil surface. Watch the weather and try to catch a rain. Even these grasses need some water to germinate and start growing.

In shady spots, plant plugs of horseherb.

Our grandson has had a rash for some time. A doctor thinks it may be caused by bedbugs. Do you have a remedy?

P.S., Garland

Treat all cracks, crevices, seams of bedsprings and mattresses, door casings, backs of pictures, electrical switch plates and furniture upholstery with orange oil or d-limonene products, other plant-oil products or natural diatomaceous earth.

Using a capful of a high-quality d-limonene product per washer load will help clean the bedding

ORGANIC ANSWERS



HOWARD GARRETT
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Mix the orange oil with horticultural oil, not dormant oil, and limit the orange oil to 1 ounce per gallon. Dormant oil no longer has any use. Horticultural oil is more highly filtered, has fewer weather restrictions and carries less danger of plant damage. It will smother both adult insects and eggs.

Even though it has been cold, moles are tearing up my yard. Last year, they destroyed the St. Augustine lawn.

I have heard that putting dog hair into the moles' burrows will run them off, but I have not tried it. I have used hot-pepper sauce and soap, but the moles just move to another spot.

C.T., Springtown

Home remedies sometimes work with these insect-eating mammals. They tunnel to find earthworms, grub worms and insect larvae to eat.

Moles can be controlled to some degree with hot-pepper and castor-oil products or mixtures of these ingredients. Injecting the materials into the ground in the problem areas is more effective than spraying the surface.

Planting castor beans around the perimeter of the yard or garden can help, too.

RESOURCES

ONLINE: www.dirtdoctor.com for free organic-program handouts

RADIO: KSKY-AM (660), Saturday 11 a.m.-noon and Sunday 8-11 a.m. www.ksky.com.

MAIL: P.O. Box 140650, Dallas, TX 75214

without harming the fabric.

Using a rinse made with apple cider vinegar after showering also helps.

Would it be beneficial to add a small amount of orange oil to dormant-oil spray for fruit and pecan trees? If so, how much should I add?

K.C., Dallas

I think there could be some benefit. The usual rate is 1 to 2 ounces of orange oil per gallon of water. Don't go over 2 ounces for any spray mix that will hit foliage.



File 1998

A small amount of orange oil may be beneficial in a natural spray mix to deter disease and insects on fruit and nut trees.

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Wallpaper: framing rooms in new ways

From Wire Reports

LOS ANGELES — Wallpaper is back. But with all the new options, choosing the right one can seem overwhelming.

Wallpaper adds texture, pattern and scale, says designer Jay Jeffers of Jeffers Design Group here and in San Francisco. Whether hand-blocked designs or grass cloth, wallpaper can set the tone for any room, be it in an urban loft or a Plano miniansion.

Mr. Jeffers, who uses wallpaper frequently, offers tips for creating a contemporary feel with a traditional form:

Placement: Mr. Jeffers recommends balancing a sense of adventure with a need for function. Something restful, such as a floral motif, is ideal for a bedroom. A pattern can add intensity to activity-oriented rooms such as living and dining areas. Mr. Jeffers' motto: "lively prints for lively areas." He discourages using wallpaper in

heavily trafficked areas such as bathrooms because it can be hard to clean.

Color: In a bedroom, two different patterns — for instance, a geometric wall covering and a floral duvet cover — complement each other because they share earth tones. Rust accents can be placed on pillows, door frames, moldings and an armchair. This creates an environment that is calm yet invigorating.

Testrun: Start with a wallpaper sample and hang it on the wall. With some papers costing as much as \$300 for a 5-yard roll, be sure you like it. Drawn to strong designs and color, Mr. Jeffers encourages risk-taking.

"You have to be able to say to yourself, 'I'm going to go for it,'" he says.

If the finished look is hard to visualize, go ahead and order one roll to see what it looks like on a larger area first.

Balance: Mr. Jeffers views designing a room as a layering process. In one client's guest room, he used custom hand-blocked wallpaper to create "a calm and resting

room with playful and whimsical aspects." To avoid overwhelming the small space, he added an upholstered headboard to break up the pattern.

Accessorizing: Neutral- or solid-colored accents, art, pillows and mirrors also can break up a pattern. With patterned wallpaper, Mr. Jeffers recommends furnishings that are solid and have visual weight. Alabaster or ceramic accessories are nice accompaniments to a strong graphic statement.

Have fun: If doors have recessed panels, consider wallpapering the interior of the panels. Better yet, wallpaper the entire door if the home is modern and the doors have no detail. This trick can make a nondescript door disappear. Placed on the exterior of furnishings, wallpaper can become an architectural statement. Inside is fun, too: Don't be afraid to wallpaper inside cabinets.

Mr. Jeffers also likes handmade papers with no repeats because they add depth to a room.

"It also adds whimsy," he says.

Los Angeles Times

Shopping the Town

Special Advertising Feature

Baby your baby

Having a baby? Or know someone who is? Goose Cottage has the new "Bunnies by the Bay" collection of baby gifts and clothing. The collection includes baby blankets, booties, clothing and toys. Come see the "Skip-It" puppy line for baby boys and "Littlebit" the bunny for baby girls. They are adorable! Visit the new "Baby Nook" at Goose Cottage. Come and see! **Goose Cottage**, 17610 Midway Rd, Suite 142 Bent Tree Shopping Center in Dallas, 972-407-0070. www.goosecottage.net.

Antique chairs

Mahogany chairs with carved backs and feet, upholstered in Fortuny green and crème fabric, make a sensational accessory for the home! Come in and see antiques and trimmings for spring. **Rutherford's**, 5417 W. Lovers Lane, 214-357-0888.

Shopping the Town runs Fridays in House & Garden.

To advertise contact your Dallas Morning News account representative or Denise Sanders at 214-977-2044.

Shopping the Town, an advertising pleasure for over 55 years.

Spring sale

Forestwood blooms, March 1 through March 5 during its annual Spring Sale, featuring fine antiques at special prices. Customers who purchase an item over \$100 will receive a free ticket to the Dallas Arboretum. There will be gift certificate drawings up to \$500, entertainment and refreshments. This is an event you don't want to miss. Visit the Garden Tea Room. **Forestwood Antique Mall**, 5333 Forest Lane, Dallas. Open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily and from noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. 972-661-0001.

THE WEEK

TUESDAY
HEALTHY LIVING

MODERN MENOPAUSE:

These women are changing the face of menopause

WEDNESDAY

TASTE

A TOAST TO TEA:

A spring menu, with teas to match

NEXT WEEK

HOME

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ON DALLASNEWS.COM

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HOME

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