

## MARCH

**What to Plant . . .** This is an excellent time to plant cold sensitive **palms** and **woody ornamentals**. Irrigate frequently until plants become established.

**What's Blooming . . .** **Amaryllis, avocado, bougainvillea, citrus, cleodendrums, Indian Hawthorne, orchid tree** (*Bauhinia variegata*), **red powderpuff, sausage tree, silver trumpet tree** (**yellow tabebuia, star jasmine, Texas geiger, yellow allamanda**).

**What to Prune . . .** Prune away cold damaged material. Prune landscape plants that require shaping and size reduction. Refrain from pruning gardenias and azaleas until after they have bloomed.

**What to Fertilize . . .** Finish fertilizing the **lawn** and all **trees** and **shrubs** by the end of this month, if you have not already done so.

**What to Watch For . . .** Accelerated growth of tropicals begin including the appearance of new leaves. Numerous sucking insects will begin appearing this month. Watch for **lacebugs** on azaleas, sycamore and on new leaves of avocados. **Stink bugs** or **big-legged plant bugs** may be found feeding on leaves and fruits of some plants. Consider control of **chinch bugs** in St. Augustinegrass lawns and **mole crickets** in Bahiagrass lawns. **Lubber grasshoppers** will be hatching. The young ones are black with red or yellow markings. They feed principally on various types of lilies. Expect sightings of **scale, mealybugs, aphids, whiteflies, citrus leafminers** and **cutworms**. The latter is an underground creature.

### March Journal:

- To increase branching and flowering of **annuals**, remove ½ to 1 inch of tip growth from each stem. Flowering annuals produce blooms on the new growth. The more branching, the lovelier the flowering display.
- Establish good cultural practices early to maintain a healthy **citrus** tree. Keep the ground beneath the tree bare, out to the drip line if possible. Do not use any type of mulch or plantings in this area. Prune out dead twigs and branches and any cold damaged plant parts. If your tree has had a history of scab disease, apply a copper spray 2-3 weeks after petal fall.
- For **St. Augustine turf**, mowing at a height of at least 3 inches will help keep the lawn healthy. Keep mower blades sharp to prevent shredding of leaf blades. A mulching mower will help the cuttings break down more quickly thus adding nutrients to the soil more efficiently. Your last chance to apply a preemergence herbicide to help control summer weeds is early in the month.
- Plant **poinsettias** outdoors in a sunny location and prune to 12 inches above the soil. Poinsettias have a better chance of blooming again next winter if planted or kept outside in pots because they bloom in response to shortened daylight hours.

