

Home & Garden

From Clemson Extension Service

March Yard and Garden Tips (<http://www.clemson.edu/laurens>)

Watch out for: Lawns

- **White grubs** - March begins the cycle of treatment for grub problems in your lawn. The bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Dipel, etc.) does a nice job on Japanese Beetle grubs, but it does take a little time to build up in the soil. *Bacillus thuringiensis* does not, however, control other types of grubs. See White Grub Management in Turfgrass for more information.

Things to do: Flowers

- **Pruning** - March is a nice time to prune your repeat-blooming roses such as floribunda and hybrid tea roses, just as the buds break dormancy. Do not prune your once-flowering roses now, but instead prune them after the bloom. See Pruning Roses for more information.

Lawns

- **Fertilizer** - it's time for application of nitrogen for Bermuda grass and zoysiagrass lawns that have been overseeded for the winter. Follow the recommendations on your soil test report for your lawn. DON'T fertilize centipede or St. Augustine yet, nor warm-season lawns that were not overseeded. See Fertilizing Lawns for more information.

- **Crabgrass and goosegrass** - make the initial attack on your war with these weeds this month. You will need an application of a pre-emergent herbicide this month and again in June. See Grassy Weeds for more information.

- **Wild garlic and wild onion** - March is the time for the second herbicide application for these two problems if you have them in your yard. See Wild Garlic and Wild Onion for information on herbicides and rates of application.

- **Henbit** - this nice little lawn weed can be a problem. Treat now to prevent its return this summer. See Henbit for more information.

- **Nutsedge or "nutgrass"** - nutsedge is very difficult to control. There are two main types in our area - purple and yellow. You must identify which you have before you begin treatment. Herbicides must be applied when the nutsedge is actively growing, which means decent soil moisture and

warm conditions. See Nutsedge for more information.

- **Trampweed** - if you saw this fluffy-looking weed last summer and fall, now is the time to treat your yard to prevent its return. This should be your second treatment if you have a cool-season lawn. Treat your warm-season lawn in November and February. See Annual Trampweed for more information.

- **Irrigation** - now is a good time to inspect your irrigation system for repairs and upgrades. You should also scan your automatic timer's manual to re-familiarize yourself with how to set times. See the Home and Garden Center's irrigation publications for more information.

Ponds

- **Pond fertilization** - if your pond needs fertilization this month is a good time. Do not fertilize within 4 to 6 weeks of liming the pond. See Fertilizing Recreational Fish Ponds for more information.

Vegetables

- **Vegetables** - Some planting times for more common vegetables (See Planning a Garden for a full list and planting depths and spacings):

- o Aspara-

gus crowns - early February - late March

- o Cabbage - Feb. 15 - Apr. 1
- o Carrots - Mar. 1 - 15
- o Lettuce - Mar. 1 - 15
- o Irish Po-

tatoes - Mar. 15 - 30

- o Turnips - Feb. 20 - Apr. 1

All pamphlets referenced in this calendar may be found online: <http://www.clemson.edu/hgic> or <http://www.clemson.edu/cafs/departments/esps/factsheets/>.

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Americans Say Yards Are One of the Most Important Parts of Their Homes, According to New Survey by the TurfMutt Foundation

Alexandria, Va. – More than three quarters of Americans who have a yard (76%) say the family yard space is one of the most important parts of their home, according to a new poll commissioned by the TurfMutt Foundation and conducted online by The Harris Poll.

Nearly three quarters of Americans overall (72%) say a spacious yard would be at the top of their wish list if they were looking for a new home. That desire reflects a cultural shift in how Americans view their yards. Even more so, they're willing to invest in their yards, and are using them more for everyday activities, including as work-from-home office space.

"What we are seeing with Americans is greater reliance on the backyard as an extension of the home. It's not just a place that looks pretty – it's a place to live and do daily activities such as working, dining and relaxing," said Kris Kiser, President and CEO of the TurfMutt Foundation. "They've discovered that 'backyarding' is a better way to live and there's no turning back. They are also willing to hire professionals and invest money into yard improvements."

People are enjoying extra time outside, too. Nearly a quarter of Americans who have a yard (24%) are spending more time in their yards now than before the COVID-19 pandemic. And they are really enjoying the extra time outside. Over 3 in 5 Americans who have a yard (63%) say they have enjoyed doing more activities in their yard since the pandemic began. Younger adults (68% age 18-54 vs. 52% age 65+) and parents of kids under 18 (73% vs. 58% who are not parents of kids under 18) are more apt to feel this way.

Who's spending all that time outside?

- Older millennials - 32% of adults ages 35-44 who have a yard are the spending more time in their yard now compared to pre-pandemic.
- Parents - 30% of those with a yard who are par-

ents of kids under 18 are spending more time out in their yard now compared to pre-pandemic and are more likely than those without kids under 18 to say they are doing so (21%).

How Americans use their yard has likely changed. For one, the outdoor office trend is here to stay with many Americans using their yards as makeshift offices for their jobs. Stats show:

- Nearly 2 in 5 Americans who have a yard (58%) say they have spent time doing work for their job in their yard during the pandemic.
- Men are more likely to use their yards while doing work for their jobs, with 63% of men compared to 53% of women with yards saying they worked outdoors in their yard during the pandemic.
- Among those with a yard, parents of kids under 18 are also more likely (71%) than their counterparts without kids under 18 (52%) to have used the yard to get work done during the pandemic.

The yard has also become a place to de-stress, with more than two thirds of Americans who have a yard (69%) saying doing yard work, such as mowing, trimming or planting, is one of the ways they like to de-stress these days. This is especially true among parents of kids under 18 as they are more likely than their counterparts without kids under 18 to cite this (76% vs. 65%).

A vast majority of Americans who have a yard (84%) plan to invest in their yard in 2022, including:

- 67% say they'll purchase plants/trees/flowers/vegetables to plant themselves
- 39% report they will purchase items to maintain or improve their grassy areas
- 23% say they will install or update hardscaping themselves.

And the outlook looks bright for the landscaping industry. About a third (33%) of those with a yard plan to hire a professional to do landscaping or hard-

scaping in 2022. Other yard improvements planned for 2022 include installing a fence (19%) or a shed (15%) and adding a swimming pool (10%). Among those with a yard:

- Adults ages 18-44 are more likely than those ages 45+ to say they plan to invest in their yard in 2022 by hiring a professional to do landscaping or hardscaping, 43% compared to 26% of those age 45+.
- Nearly a third of those ages 18-44 (31%) will install or update hardscaping themselves, 27% will install a fence, 21% will install a shed and 18% plan to put in a swimming pool.
- Parents of kids under 18 (73%) are more likely than their counterparts (63%) to say they plan to invest in their yard in 2022 by purchasing plants, trees, flowers, or vegetables to plant themselves. Parents of kids under 18 are also

more likely than those without kids under 18 to purchase items to main-

tain or improve grassy areas on the lawn (44% vs. 36%), and more likely to

hire a professional to do landscaping or hardscaping (47% vs. 26%).

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Soil Management for Lawns and Gardens

Have you ever heard of the saying that you are what you eat? The same can be said for your lawn's health starting at the source of nutrient uptake, i.e., the grass's roots and the soil it inhabits.

The quality of your soil plays a huge factor in the overall health of your lawn and garden. Grass soil and garden soil provide nutrients, water, air and a place of anchorage for roots. On the other hand, soil can also contain insects, diseases, nematodes or overall poor nutrient quality.

Read on to get general understanding of soils, soil pH levels and how lawn soil interacts with plant roots so that your lawn is vibrant and healthy.

Soil Types

Soil types matter because they vary in pH and nutrients. If you understand your soil type, you'll have a general idea of which nutrients it usually has or lacks. There are three types of soil: sandy soil, clay soil and loamy soil.

How to Manage Sandy Soil

Sandy soil is coarse and gritty to the feel and water moves through it quickly, so it has a low water holding capacity. For this reason, sand is poor in nutrient content.

Sandy soil's nutrient content can be improved by regularly adding organic material, such as top dressing, compost or well-rotted manure. This will help improve (slow down) drainage, increase the water holding capacity and as a result increase plant nutrient uptake.

How to Manage Clay Soil

Clay soil is reddish brown and is fine and powdery when dry. In contrast to sand, water moves through it slowly, so it has high water holding capacity—typically, too much. Clay soils can be rich in plant nutrients, but the pH is often too high or low, so those nutrients are not available to plants.

Clay soil can be improved by adding organic material, such as top dressing, compost or well-rotted manure. This will improve (increase) drainage and provide more appropriate water holding capacity. Organic material will also lighten heavy soil.

How to Manage Loamy Soil

Loamy soil is dark brown and contains clay and sandy soil in moderate proportions with some organic material. Water moves through it at a moderate rate, so it has a moderate water holding capacity. It is rich in plant nutrients. For this reason, loamy soil is ideal for growing healthy grass.

Why does soil pH matter?

pH is a way to explain the amount of hydrogen ions in a solution. In other words, the more hydrogen ions in a solution, the more acidic the soil. When it comes to your lawn or garden's soil pH, it's helpful to think of the pH as the mouth to your plants by which it consumes nutrients.

The pH scale ranges from 0, or highly acidic, to 14, or highly alkaline. The

mouth of your grass is "wide open" when it has a pH of 6.0–7.0, which is neutral and ideal for growing healthy grass. This means that your soil is in the ideal range to receive nutrients.

Plants grown in soils that are too acidic or too alkaline cannot adequately access plant nutrients, whether they occur naturally in the soil or are applied in the form of fertilizer.

If you are applying fertilizer to your

lawn without knowing the pH to your soil, you could very well be wasting your money.

Don't do it. Instead, invest more time and money in determining the pH balance of your soil first. pH kits are inexpensive and reliable.

However, we highly recommend collecting a soil sample and submitting it for analysis in order to receive a professional, thorough diagnosis of your soil.

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\$3 Quart Pot

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- Coleus Wizard Mix
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- Lobelia Regatta White
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- Italian Oregano
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March 30-31 - 8:30 to 4:30

April 1 - 8:30 to 11:30

April 4-7 - 8:30 to 4:00

April 8 - 8:30 to 3:00

April 11-15 - Closed for Spring Break

April 18-29 - By Appointment

Clinton High School Greenhouse is located behind the Clinton High School. Use entrance at gate 3.

America's most trusted vegetable

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Bolthouse Farms, one of the biggest carrot growers and distributors in the U.S. and the popular brand behind delicious juices, smoothies, dressings and more, announced new survey data exploring Americans' relationship with their vegetables.

Just in time for spring-time holidays, the survey of 2,000 Americans revealed that carrots are America's most trusted vegetable, from baby's first food to everyone's favorite veggie tray staple.

The proof is in the data. Sixty-nine percent of Americans are most likely to eat carrots out of a dozen other vegetables – outpacing many of the carrot's peers like spinach (55%), sweet potatoes (53%) and asparagus (50%).

Americans report that the carrot is the first solid food they fed to their baby, with the majority at 21%.

Carrots are one of the top five most popular veggies that Americans buy on a weekly basis, with 53%

of Americans enjoying this colorful root vegetable during meal- or snack time.

Americans' relationship with food is focused on healthy eating plus great taste, and carrots bring both to the table."

Versatility played an important role in America's perception of carrots as a veggie they can count on. Not only do carrots function as a healthy snack, but also as a convenient and preferred vegetable choice for entertaining, especially for holidays like Easter and Passover.

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