

SEASONAL

tips



MARCH IS THE FIRST SPRING PLANTING MONTH

During March you can plant most summer annuals and perennials, warm-season and cool-season lawns from seed, some cool-season and most warm-season vegetables, and almost all permanent garden plants, such as trees, shrubs, ground covers and vines. (Wait a month or two to put in tropicals. They'll take off better in warmer weather.) If you've never gardened before you couldn't choose a better time to start, because you'll soon see results. One of the wonderful things about our sunny climate is how quickly it makes the garden grow right before your very eyes.

TO FOOL A MOCKINGBIRD...

How to Protect Bean and Corn Sprouts from Birds

Birds, especially mockingbirds, love young bean and sweet corn sprouts. Just slap a green berry basket (the kind that strawberries and cherry tomatoes come in) over each planted seed. After sprouts have touched the top of the baskets, you can safely remove them; by then the birds will have lost interest.

HOW TO FOIL THOSE DASTARDLY CUTWORMS

How to Foil Dastardly Cutworms. Save the cardboard tube from inside holiday wrapping paper. Cut it into 2-inch sections to make protective collars. When you plant tomatoes, first slip the leaves of each plant gently through a cardboard collar; then anchor the sleeve ½-inch into the soil around the transplant. Cutworms won't climb over.

QUICK TIP

Make a Homemade Snail Jail. To protect birds, wild animals and pets from eating slug and snail bait, squash the sides of empty tin cans to leave a 1½ inch space – Just enough room for snails to enter. Dampen the interiors and sprinkle in bait. Place the traps around the garden and tie them in orange trees. Fully enclosed, strong baits can be used safely.



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