

JANUARY 2024

ANNUAL GARDENING CALENDAR

PREPARED FOR HARVEST (FRUITS AND VEGETABLES)
BY DR. ROBERT E. MOON



DR. R.E. MOON +
ASSOCIATES
est. 1982

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1 NEW YEARS DAY Set irrigation controller to the off position.	2 Prepare sketches of your garden and flower beds. Determine crops and plants to be grown and spacing. Till soil during cold afternoons to control overwintering insects.	3 Begin to "harden" cabbage or broccoli plants in cold frames with less watering, exposure to cold, and low fertility.	4 Spray fruit and pecan trees with Neem Oil and Cueva. The temperature needs to be above freezing when spraying. This is good for overwintering insect and disease control.	5 Clean tools and equipment and store them in a dry place after each usage. Use oil on the metal and linseed oil on the wood handles. Maintain temperatures in greenhouses to prevent a sudden drop in temperature, which may be damaging to tropical plants.	6
7	8 Plant bare-root pecans, grapes, fruit trees, and blackberries one inch above the existing soil line. Water plants directly after planting and use a root stimulator.	9	10 Prepare planting beds for annuals and vegetable crops. Incorporate organic material such as peat moss, pine bark, compost, or composted cow manure materials to improve soils.	11 Spray Neem Oil and Cueva to control overwintering insects and diseases on fruit, nut, and landscape trees when the temperatures are above 40° F for 12 hours if you have not already done so.	12	13 Fertilize fruit trees with the Harvest Fertilizer.
14	15	16	17 Begin seeding peppers and tomatoes in cold frames for early transplants. Also sow annual and perennial flower seeds in cold frames. Remove spent flowers on pansies to prolong the blooming season. Continue to fertilize at six-week intervals with Harvest Fertilizer and water regularly.	18	19 Till your garden soil. Add 20 lbs. of a complete granular fertilizer such as 10-20-10 or 10-10-10 per 1,000 square feet. Also add sulfur, organic matter, and granular garden gypsum to loosen the soil. Composted cow manure can be substituted for inorganic fertilizer.	20
21	22	23 Take a soil sample and send it to ServiTech, Inc. Check their website for instructions and cost.	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

FEBRUARY 2024

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28	29	30	31	1 Set irrigation controller to run one time every two weeks. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2 Don't forget to apply Neem Oil to fruit and pecan trees. Do not apply Neem Oil if the day temperature is at or below freezing.	3 This is still a good time for planting roses, pecans, grapes, fruit trees, blackberries, and landscape plants. Plants will thrive if you prepare a wide planting hole and plant, so the top of the root ball...
4 ... is 1-2 inches higher than the existing soil line. Soils at Harvest will need the addition of organic matter mixed with existing soil as a backfill around the roots.	5	6	7 Prune fruit trees, grape vines, and nut trees. Remember that fruit trees produce fruit on one-year-old wood.	8	9	10 Plant English peas, onions, Irish potatoes, and spinach in the vegetable garden. Now is also a good time to add landscape plants. Never till or plant in wet soil.
11	12	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY Plant asparagus, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, Swiss chard, collard (kale), kohlrabi, lettuce, onion plants, parsley, radishes, and turnips.	15	16	17 Re-plant lettuce and radishes weekly until the third week in April.
18	19	20	21 Aphids begin to show up on all vegetable plants. Control if found with Neem Oil.	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	1	2

MARCH 2024

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
25	26	27	28	29	1 Set irrigation controller to run one time every 7-10 days. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2 Seed eggplants for transplants in April. Seed Firecracker 234 wildflower blend.
3 Begin to "harden tomatoes, peppers, and other vegetables in cold frames by less watering and exposure to cold. Be careful not to let plants freeze. Monitor watering closely to decrease damping off.	4	5	6	7	8 Spray pear trees for the control of fire blight with Neem Oil and Cueva. Apply three applications at five-day intervals beginning when 10% of the blossoms are open.	9
10 Spray peach and plum trees for insect and disease control when 75% of the blossoms are open and on a continued schedule every 10-14 days until five applications are made. Treat with Neem Oil and Cueva.	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Plant snap beans, lima beans, lettuce, cucumbers, squash, sweet corn, mustard, and tomatoes (seeds and transplants). Thin flower and vegetable plants as needed.	18	19	20	21	22	23 Control insects, weeds, and diseases in the garden as needed.
24	25 Set irrigation controller to run one time every 7-10 days. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	26	27	28	29	30 / 31

APRIL 2024

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1 EASTER	2 Plant snap beans, lima beans, eggplants, lettuce, cucumbers, squash, sweet corn, cantaloupes, mustard, tomatoes (transplants), pumpkins, and watermelons. Check leaf crops for aphids and loopers and control. Spray as needed with Neem Oil.	3	4 AVERAGE FROST FREE	5 Spray fruit trees again for insect and disease control. Now is also a good time to spray pecans for gall control. Spray with Neem Oil and Cueva.	6 Turn your compost pile and add additional organic matter and a small amount of nitrogen fertilizer to enhance decomposition.
7	8	9	10	11 Thin newly established vegetable plants as needed. Control cutworms and treat tomatoes for disease control with Neem Oil. Seed the wildflower and cut flower mix in your garden.	12	13
14 Spray apples and pears to control insects and diseases every 14 days. Spray with Neem Oil.	15 Treat pecan rosette, pecan scab and foliage-feeding insects with Neem Oil.	16 Make second plantings of sweet corn and green beans. Transplant eggplants.	17 Water strawberries after each harvest, but do not overwater.	18 Plant okra, southern peas, hot peppers (plants), sweet peppers (plants), sweet potatoes, and pumpkins. Mulch and cage tomatoes to prevent rot.	19	20 Spray grapevines at 14-day intervals with Neem Oil to control insects and diseases.
21 Check squash plants for vine borers and control. Begin harvesting cool-season vegetables. Do not fertilize new bedding plants until they show some growth.	22	23	24 Thin peaches to 4-6 inches apart for the highest fruit quality. Spray fruit trees again with Neem Oil for insect and disease control.	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

MAY 2024

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	1 Set irrigation controller to run one time every 7-10 days. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2	3	4 Control powdery mildew on vegetables as needed with Neem Oil. Watch vegetables for spider mites and, if present, control with Neem Oil.
5 Blackberry production is declining. Remove at ground level the old canes which had fruit this season and "tip back" new canes to encourage branching.	6	7	8	9 Continue to spray peach and plum trees to control insect and disease control every 14 days until five treatments have occurred. This is the fourth application listed in this calendar. Also continue to spray roses. Apply Neem Oil and Cueva for these treatments.	10	11
12 Locate a source of biological predators to be used in the garden such as ladybugs and predator mites.	13	14 Apply pre-emergent weed control to turf, shrubs, and ground cover beds for warm season weed control. Read and follow label instructions carefully.	15	16 Check squash plants for the presence of vine borers and control if needed. Also check for squash bugs and control if needed with Neem Oil.	17	18
19	20	21 Check vegetables, annual flowers, and ornamentals for spider mites. Control with Neem Oil.	22 Spray fruit trees again for insect and disease control. Control with Neem Oil and Cueva.	23 Be ready to spray pecan nut casebearer and scab with Neem Oil and Cueva when emergence is announced in your paper. This varies from one year to the next year, but usually falls on these dates. Spray once initially then again seven days later.	24	25
26 Replenish mulch around vegetables, trees, and shrubs to hold moisture around the plants. Use a dyed-brown, double-ground hardwood mulch or compost.	27 MEMORIAL DAY	28	29	30	31	1

JUNE 2024

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Set irrigation controller to run one or two times per week. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.
2 Treat active fire ant mounds.	3 Check plants for mildew on leaves and treat as needed with Neem Oil or Cueva.	4 Control webworms on trees. Watch for spider mites on tomatoes and control them as needed with Neem Oil.	5 Turn your compost pile and moisten. Continue to add organic matter and nitrogen fertilizer to enhance decomposition.	6 Begin to harvest onions, new Irish potatoes, snap beans, cucumbers, squash, radishes, lettuce, blackberries, and peaches.	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Harvest vegetables as they are ready.	15
16	17	18	19 JUNETEENTH	20	21	22
23 When controlling insects and mites, don't forget to check out biological predators like ladybugs and predator mites.	24	25	26	27	28	29 / 30

JULY 2024

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	1 Set irrigation controller to run two times per week. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2 Check plants for spider mites and thrips and control if needed with Neem Oil.	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Water vegetables when needed, giving a thorough soaking rather than frequent, light sprinklings. Keep those weeds pulled which are robbing your plants of needed moisture. Keep plants mulched with compost or a dyed-brown, double ground hardwood mulch.	5	6 Control insects with ladybugs and predator mites.
7 Harvest vegetables as needed.	8	9	10	11	12 Monitor all plants for scale and aphids. Treat as needed with Neem Oil.	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Powdery mildew and aphids are usually prevalent in this season. Check plants closely before buildup occurs. Treat with Neem Oil.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

AUGUST 2024

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1 Set irrigation controller to run one to two times per week. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2	3
4 Plant snap pole beans, lima pole beans, cabbage, broccoli, eggplant, Swiss chard, cantaloupe, mustard, okra, parsley, peppers, Irish potatoes, spinach, squash, tomatoes, and watermelon.	5	6	7	8	9	10 Watch for powdery mildew on plants and control as needed with Neem Oil.
11	12	13	14 Treat plants for mites, lace bugs, and thrips when present with Neem Oil.	15 Control pecan aphids, shuck worms, webworms, and foliage diseases with Neem Oil and Cueva	16 Add compost or dyed-brown, double-ground hardwood mulch to beds to conserve water.	17 Plant snap pole beans, lima pole beans, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, Swiss chard, corn, cucumber, eggplants, lettuce, mustard, okra, parsley, English peas...
18 ... southern peas, peppers, Irish potatoes, pumpkins, spinach, squash, and turnips.	19	20	21	22	23 This is a good time to build a compost bin. Keep compost wet but not soggy.	24 Be sure to water to prevent young vegetable plants from wilting and dying.
25 Control weeds in gardens.	26	27	28	29	30 Plant snap bush beans, lima bush beans, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, collards, lettuce, mustard, onion seed, parsley, and spinach.	31

SEPTEMBER 2024

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1 Set irrigation controller to run one time per week. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2 LABOR DAY	3 Plant snap beans, lima bush beans, beets, cabbage, collards, onion seeds, parsley, radishes, spinach, and turnips. Also seed poppies in your garden.	4	5	6 Keep a close watch for whitefly infestations on all plants and control as needed with Neem Oil.	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

OCTOBER 2024

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29	30	1 Set irrigation controller to run one time every 7-10 days If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2	3	4 Check out biological predators for insect and mite control. Ladybugs and predator mites will work for you.	5
6	7 Harvest pumpkins and squash and cure for several weeks. Store in a cool, dry place.	8 Plant garlic, parsley, radishes, spinach, and turnips.	9 Keep weeds out of fall vegetable gardens and water regularly.	10 Control insects and diseases on fall garden crops by spraying with Neem Oil and Cueva as needed. Control loopers with Neem Oil.	11	12 Mulch strawberry beds and vegetable beds to protect against frost.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Control nematodes in fallow vegetable gardens with Neem Oil. Wait three weeks before planting.	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN	1	2

NOVEMBER 2024

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	1 TEXAS ARBOR DAY Set irrigation controller to run one time every two weeks. If it is raining, turn controller to off position.	2 Remove debris from gardens to control diseases and insects. It is also a good time to spray fruit trees to prevent fungus and bacterial diseases. Treat with Neem Oil and Cueva.
3 Plant radishes and spinach. Continue to harvest vegetables.	4 Spray stone fruit trees for disease control with Neem Oil.	5	6	7	8	9
10 Store pecans at 36-40°F or place in a deep freeze. This will keep them fresh. Keep stored nuts away from onions.	11	12	13 AVERAGE FIRST FROST	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Treat vegetable garden soil with Neem Oil for nematode control.	23 Clean and oil garden tools; use linseed oil on the handles and clean lawn equipment.
24	25	26	27	28 THANKSGIVING DAY	29	30

DECEMBER 2024

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1 Set irrigation controller to the off position.	2 Build or repair cold frames and hotbeds.	3	4 Have a soil sample tested to determine proper soil amendments.	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 If you are an organic gardener, add composted cow manure to the garden now.	23 Prepare hot frames and cold frames for seeding vegetable and flowering transplants.	24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4