



What to Plant in March

Vegetables

Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*)

Planting: Ready plants or seeds directly into the ground or seed trays.

Care: Plant in sunny locations with well-drained soil. Water regularly and add fertilizer for good growth.

Peppers and Chilies (*Capsicum* spp.)

Planting: Ready plants or seeds in seed trays.

Care: They require sunny locations and regular watering. They prefer well-drained soil.

Spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*)

Planting: Seeds directly into the ground.

Care: Plant in sunny or semi-shaded locations with well-drained soil. Keep the soil moist.

Flower Bulbs

Calla (*Zantedeschia*)

Planting: Bulbs in well-drained soil.

Care: Keep the soil moist, but not overly. Prefers sunny or partially shaded locations.

Dahlia (*Dahlia*)

Planting: Tubers in well-drained soil.

Care: Plant in sunny locations and water regularly. Provide support as they grow.



Aromatic Plants and Herbs:

Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*)

Planting: Seeds or ready plants.

Care: Prefers sunny locations with well-drained soil. Drought-tolerant, water moderately.

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)

Planting: Cuttings or ready plants.

Care: Prefers sunny locations and well-drained soil. Water sparingly.

Mint (*Mentha spp.*)

Planting: Cuttings or ready plants.

Care: Prefers moist soil and semi-shaded locations. Water regularly.



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Ornamental Plants and Flowers

Petunia (Petunia)

Planting: Seeds or ready plants.

Care: Plant in sunny locations. Water regularly and add fertilizer for rich flowering.

Snapdragon (Antirrhinum majus)

Planting: Seeds or ready plants.

Care: Prefers sunny locations and well-drained soil. Remove wilted flowers for continuous blooming.

Carnation (Dianthus caryophyllus)

Planting: Cuttings or ready plants.

Care: Plant in sunny locations with well-drained soil. Water regularly to maintain moisture.



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Ornamental Shrubs

Japanese Pittosporum (Pittosporum tobira)

Planting: Ready plants.

Care: Prefers sunny locations and well-drained soil. Water sparingly.

Oleander (Nerium oleander)

Planting: Ready plants.

Care: Blooms until autumn in sunny locations. Drought-resistant.



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Creating a Herb Garden

Location Selection

- **Sunlight:** Most herbs need at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily. Choose a location that gets enough light but is protected from strong winds.
- **Drainage:** Herbs don't like standing water. Ensure the site has good drainage or use raised beds.

Soil Selection

- **Soil Quality:** The soil should be rich in organic matter and well-drained. You can improve the soil by adding compost.
- **Soil pH:** Most herbs prefer slightly acidic to neutral pH (6-7). You can check the pH with a test kit and adjust it accordingly.



Planting and Arrangement

- **Planting Density:** Plant herbs with enough space between them to avoid competition and ensure good air circulation.
- **Companion Planting:** Some herbs benefit from companion planting. For example, basil planted next to tomatoes helps repel insects.

Watering and Fertilizing

- **Watering:** Water regularly but carefully. Most herbs prefer the soil to dry slightly between waterings.
- **Fertilizing:** Herbs don't require much fertilizer. You can add some organic fertilizer in spring to boost their growth.

Harvesting and Maintenance

- **Harvesting:** Regularly trim herbs to encourage new growth. Try not to remove more than one-third of the plant at a time.
- **Maintenance:** Keep the garden free of weeds and dead leaves that may attract pests.



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Companion Planting with Repellent Plants

What is Companion Planting with Repellent Plants?

Companion planting involves planting different plants close to each other to improve the health and yield of crops. Repellent plants release chemicals that repel harmful insects, offering natural protection to the crops.

Benefits of Companion Planting with Repellent Plants:

- **Pest Reduction:** Repellent plants reduce the attraction of harmful insects, protecting crops from infestations.
- **Improvement of Plant Health:** These plants can enhance the resilience of neighboring plants, improving their overall health.
- **Reduction in Chemical Use:** By using natural repellents, the need for chemical insecticides is reduced, protecting the environment and health.



Examples of Repellent Plants

Calendula (*Calendula officinalis*):

- **Use:** Calendula repels aphids, nematodes, and other harmful insects. It can be planted around vegetables like tomatoes and cabbages.
- **How it Works:** Its roots secrete substances toxic to pests, while the flowers attract beneficial insects like ladybugs.

Garlic (*Allium sativum*):

- **Use:** Garlic is known for its ability to repel aphids, snails, and beetles. Plant garlic around roses and vegetables for natural protection.
- **How it Works:** Garlic releases allicin, a chemical that repels insects and pests. It also improves plants' resistance to diseases.

Lavender (*Lavandula spp.*):

- **Use:** Lavender repels moths, lice, and mosquitoes. It can be planted around vegetables and fruits.
- **How it Works:** The strong smell of lavender repels insects, while its flowers attract pollinators like bees.



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How to Apply Companion Planting with Repellent Plants:

Garden Planning:

- Use repellent plants on the edges of beds or in spots vulnerable to pests.
- Maintain sufficient distance between plants to ensure good air circulation and reduce disease spread.

Variety and Rotation:

- Alternate repellent plants with other crops to enhance biodiversity and promote soil health.
- Combine plants that attract beneficial insects with repellent plants for better results.

Continuous Monitoring:

- Monitor plants for signs of pests and adjust the placement of repellent plants as needed.
- Use natural insecticides in combination with repellent plants for optimal protection.



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Using natural insecticides is an excellent practice for protecting plants from pests without harming beneficial insects or the environment. Natural insecticides offer a safe and effective solution for maintaining the health of your crops. Here are detailed instructions on some of the most effective natural insecticides and how to use them.

Which are the Natural Insecticides

Neem Oil (*Azadirachta indica*)

What it is: Neem oil is extracted from the seeds of the neem tree and contains azadirachtin, a substance toxic to many insects.

How it Works: Neem oil acts as an anti-feedant and reproductive inhibitor for insects. It disrupts their growth and life cycle, preventing reproduction.

Use:

- **Preparation:** Mix 1-2 tablespoons of neem oil with 1 liter of water and add a few drops of liquid soap to help the mixture blend.
- **Application:** Spray the solution directly on the plant leaves, covering the surfaces well. Repeat every 7-10 days or after rain.

Benefits:

- Safe for beneficial insects like bees and ladybugs.
- Non-toxic to humans and animals.
- Breaks down quickly in the environment, reducing the risk of contamination.



Natural
Insecticides

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Potassium Soap:

What it is: Potassium soap, also known as insecticidal soap, is a natural soap used to combat soft-bodied insects.

How it Works: Potassium soap breaks down the insects' cell membranes, causing dehydration and death. It is particularly effective against aphids, mites, and whiteflies.

Use:

- **Preparation:** Mix 1-2 tablespoons of potassium soap with 1 liter of water.
- **Application:** Spray the solution directly on the affected plants, covering the surfaces of the leaves and stems. Repeat every 5-7 days until pests are eliminated.

Benefits:

- Safe for the environment and beneficial insects.
- Breaks down quickly, making it non-toxic to humans and animals.
- Can be used even in organic farming.



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Garlic (*Allium sativum*):

What it is: Garlic is known for its antimicrobial and insect-repelling properties. Garlic extract can be used as a natural insecticide.

How it Works: The strong smell of garlic repels insects, while its sulfur compounds have insecticidal properties.

Use:

- **Preparation:** Crush 4-5 garlic cloves and mix them with 1 liter of water. Let the mixture sit for 24 hours and then strain it.
- **Application:** Spray the solution on your plants, covering the leaves and stems well. Repeat every 7-10 days.

Benefits:

- Safe and non-toxic for humans and animals.
- Simple and economical to use.
- Also helps combat fungal diseases.



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Lavender Oil (Lavandula spp.):

What it is: Lavender oil is extracted from lavender flowers and has natural insect-repelling properties.

How it Works: The strong smell of lavender oil repels insects like lice and moths.

Use:

- **Preparation:** Mix 10-15 drops of lavender oil with 1 liter of water.
- **Application:** Spray the solution on the plants, covering the surfaces well. Repeat every 7-10 days.

Benefits:

- Safe for the environment and beneficial insects.
- Pleasant smell for humans.
- Simple and natural insect repellent.



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Tips for Improving Flowering

Improving flowering is crucial to ensuring a beautiful and healthy garden. There are two main techniques that can help enhance flower production: phosphorus fertilization and removing wilted flowers.

Phosphorus Fertilization

How to Use Phosphorus Fertilizers: Fertilizer Selection:

- Choose a fertilizer with a high phosphorus content. Fertilizer packages carry three numbers indicating the ratios of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). For example, a 10-20-10 fertilizer has twice the amount of phosphorus compared to nitrogen and potassium.

Timing:

- Apply the fertilizer during the flowering period. In most cases, this means spring and summer, depending on the plant species.



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Application Method:

- Dissolve the fertilizer in water according to package instructions and water the plants at their base, avoiding the leaves and flowers. This helps the nutrients to be absorbed by the roots.

Dosage Caution:

- Follow the package instructions to avoid over-fertilization, which can cause root burn and inhibit plant growth.

Benefits of Phosphorus Fertilization:

- **Enhancement of Flowering:** Phosphorus promotes the development of new flowers and strengthens plant resilience.
- **Creation of Strong Roots:** Helps develop strong and healthy roots, essential for water and nutrient absorption.



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Removing Wilted Flowers

What is Deadheading?

Deadheading is the process of removing dried or wilted flowers from the plant. This practice helps the plant focus its energy on producing new flowers rather than seed production.

How to Remove Wilted Flowers:

Tools:

- Use sharp and clean pruners or scissors to avoid spreading diseases.

Method:

- Cut the wilted flowers just above the next set of leaves or a healthy bud. This will encourage the growth of new shoots and flowers.

Frequency:

- Repeat the process regularly, especially during the peak flowering season. This will keep your plants in continuous flower production.

Benefits of Deadheading:

- Encouragement of Continuous Flowering: Deadheading promotes the production of new flowers.
- Disease Prevention: Removing dried flowers reduces the likelihood of pest and disease infestations.
- Improvement of Appearance: Keeps the plants aesthetically pleasing and well-maintained.



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Additional Tips

Check Soil pH: Most plants bloom better in slightly acidic to neutral soil (pH 6-7).

Adequate Sunlight: Ensure your plants receive enough sunlight, at least 6-8 hours a day.

Good Drainage: Avoid standing water at the plant roots, which can cause root rot.



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Whitefly

What is Whitefly?

The whitefly is a small, white insect that lives and feeds on the underside of plant leaves. When infested, plants show weakening, leaf curling, yellowing, and overall reduced growth.

Plants Preferred by Whitefly:

Whitefly mainly prefers plants with soft leaves and high moisture content. Some of the most common plants affected include:

Vegetables:

- **Tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*):** Tomatoes are particularly vulnerable to whitefly infestations, especially when grown in greenhouses.
- **Cucumbers (*Cucumis sativus*):** Often infested, as whitefly can cause significant damage to leaves and fruits.
- **Eggplants (*Solanum melongena*):** Vulnerable to infestation, eggplants can suffer a significant reduction in yield.



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Ornamental Plants:

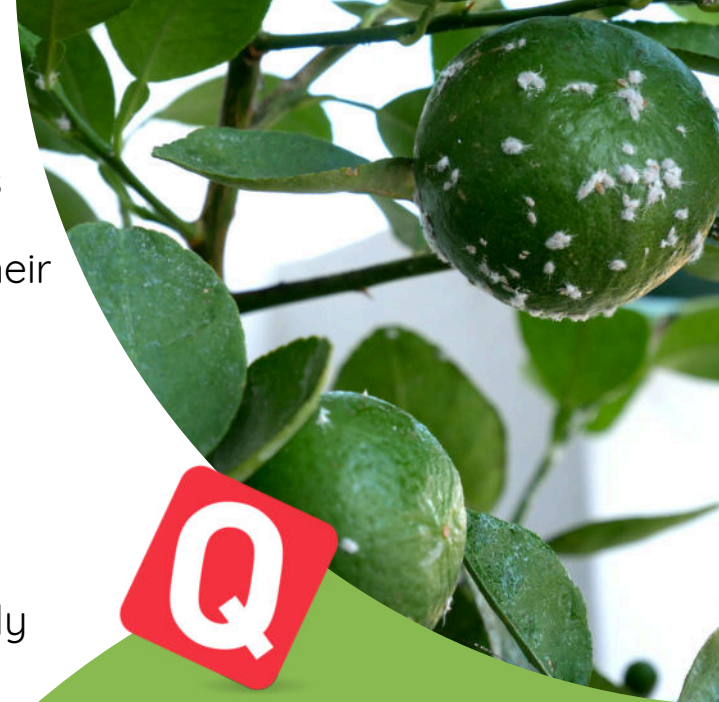
- **Petunias (*Petunia spp.*):** Petunias are often targeted by whiteflies due to their soft leaves and flowers.
- **Hibiscus (*Hibiscus spp.*):** Hibiscus attracts whiteflies because of their juicy leaves and flowers.

Fruits:

- **Citrus (*Citrus spp.*):** Lemons, oranges, and grapefruits are often victims of whitefly.
- **Strawberries (*Fragaria × ananassa*):** Strawberries can suffer serious damage from whitefly, affecting yield and fruit quality.

Aromatic Plants:

- **Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*):** Basil is vulnerable to whitefly, especially in high humidity conditions.
- **Mint (*Mentha spp.*):** Mint can attract whitefly, especially when grown in areas with poor air circulation.



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Natural Methods of Control

Yellow Sticky Traps:

- **Description:** Yellow sticky traps attract whiteflies because of the yellow color, which insects perceive as a food source.
- **Use:** Place traps near infested plants. These traps can significantly reduce whitefly populations.

Neem Oil:

- **Description:** Neem oil is a natural insecticide derived from the neem tree. It contains azadirachtin, which is toxic to insects.
- **Use:** Mix 1-2 tablespoons of neem oil with 1 liter of water and add a few drops of liquid soap. Spray the solution directly on plants, especially on the underside of leaves. Repeat every 7-10 days.

Potassium Soap:

- **Description:** Potassium soap is a natural soap that destroys the protective outer coating of insects, causing dehydration.
- **Use:** Mix 1-2 tablespoons of potassium soap with 1 liter of water. Spray the solution on infested plants, covering the leaves well. Repeat every 5-7 days.



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Biological Control Methods



Beneficial Insects:

- **Description:** Use beneficial insects like ladybugs and parasitic wasps (*Encarsia formosa*) that feed on whiteflies and reduce their population.
- **Use:** Release beneficial insects in your garden or greenhouse. These insects will start feeding on whiteflies, reducing their population naturally.

Garlic Extract:

- **Description:** Garlic extract has natural insect-repelling properties and can be used to deter whiteflies.
- **Use:** Crush 4-5 garlic cloves and mix them with 1 liter of water. Let the mixture sit for 24 hours and then strain it. Spray the solution on plants, covering the leaves well. Repeat every 7-10 days.

Calendula (*Calendula officinalis*):

- **Description:** Calendula repels insects and can be planted around sensitive plants for natural protection.
- **Use:** Plant calendula near plants vulnerable to whitefly. The strong scent of calendula will repel insects.



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Tips for Effective Control

Continuous Monitoring:

- Regularly check your plants for signs of whiteflies and other pests. Early detection can prevent extensive infestations.

Good Air Circulation:

- Maintain good air circulation around your plants, avoiding excessive humidity that favors whitefly growth.

Removal of Affected Leaves:

- Remove and destroy infested leaves to reduce whitefly populations and prevent the spread of infestation.



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