

March Vegetable and Herb Gardening Calendar for Arid Climate Australia

March heralds the beginning of autumn, so there's lots of tidying up in the garden. The weather remains warm and humid in areas as far south of the country as Sydney and Perth. With the cooler conditions and moist soils, it's also an ideal time to plant new trees, as the weather is milder and there is some time for the trees to establish themselves before winter arrives.

Pick marrows, pumpkins and squash before the flesh becomes coarse. Only pick pumpkins when fully ripe (no green skin or stem), cut when stalk begins turning brown and withers.

It's also time to lift root crops such as beetroot, carrots onions potatoes and turnips for storage and winter use. Leave parsnips in ground, they need some cold to taste the best.

If tomatoes have not ripened, the plants can be laid down flat on the ground and covered with a cloche (plastic covered frame) to speed up ripening.

Things to Do This Month:

- Compost autumn leaves
- Collect perennial seeds and divide overgrown perennial plants
- Sow cool season green manure crops, such as rapeseed, broad beans, fenugreek, linseed, lupins, mustard, oats, subclover and vetch, then dug in during autumn before flowering
- Start planting new trees, shrubs, climbers, annuals and perennials – remember to water them regularly until they establish
- Relocate evergreen shrubs (can be done either in autumn and early spring)
- Harvest autumn bearing raspberries, but leave canes unpruned till late winter-early spring
- Finish pruning canes that have fruited from summer fruiting raspberries
- Prune blackcurrants and other brambleberries from now till winter
- Remove autumn leaves from ponds and water gardens and thin out aquatic plants
- Stop feeding container plants
- Cut down asparagus foliage as it starts turning yellow and mulch the plants generously
- Net trees to protect fruit from birds



Vegetables and Herbs to Grow in March (Arid Climate)

March Seeds to Sow and Seedlings to Plant (Arid Climate Australia)	Sow/Plant	Harvest (weeks)
Amaranth	dst	7-8
Asparagus Pea	d	8-11
Basil	t	10-12
Beans (Climbing)	t	9-11
Beans (Dwarf, Bush)	t	7-10
Beetroot	dst	7-10
Broccoli	st	10-16
Brussels Sprouts	t	14-28
Burdock	d	17-18
Cabbage	st	8-15
Capsicum	t	10-12
Carrot	d	12-18
Cauliflower	st	15-22
Chinese Cabbage	st	8-10
Chives	t	7-11
Collard Greens	d	8-11
Daikon	d	8-10
Endive	dst	10-11
Fennel (Florence)	dst	14-20
Kale	s	7-9
Kohlrabi	dst	7-10
Leeks	d	15-18
Lettuce	dst	8-12
Mustard Greens	s	5-8
Oregano	dst	6-8
Pak Choy	s	6-11
Parsley	dst	9-19
Peas	s	9-11
Pumpkin	t	15-20
Radish	d	5-7
Rocket	d	21-35 days
Rockmelon (Cantaloupe)	t	10-16
Rosella	t	21-25
Salsify	d	14-21
Silverbeet (Swiss Chard)	dst	7-12
Squash	t	7-8
Sunflower	dt	10-11
Swedes (Rutabaga)	dst	10-14
Tomato	t	8-17
Turnip	d	6-9



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Watermelon	T	9-14
Zucchini (Courgette, Marrow)	dst	6-9

Key:

d = sow seeds directly into ground

s = sow seeds into seed tray

ds = sow seeds directly into ground or seed tray

t = transplant seedlings (small plants) into larger pots or plant into ground

*= frost tender

**= sow after frost

