

# March Vegetable and Herb Gardening Calendar for Cool & Alpine Climate Australia

March heralds the beginning of autumn, so there's lots of tidying up in the garden. The first frosts may appear in Canberra and high inland areas. 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.

Plant garlic now, as it prefers a period of cold weather to grow well.

## 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
- Plant new strawberries
- 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 (Cool & Alpine Climate)

March Seeds to Sow and Seedlings to Plant (Cool & Alpine Climate Australia)	Sow/Plant	Harvest (weeks)
Beetroot	dst	7-10
Broad Beans	dst	12-22
Broccoli	t	10-16
Cabbage	t	8-15
Carrot	d	12-18
Cauliflower	t	15-22
Chicory	t	16-24
Chinese Cabbage	t	8-10
Chives	st	7-11
Collard Greens	t	8-11
Coriander (Cilantro)	dst	30-45
Corn Salad	d	5-8
Daikon	d	8-10
Dill	dt	8-12
Endive	dst	10-11
Fennel (Florence)	dt	14-20
Garlic	plant cloves	17-25
Horseradish	plant root pieces	16-24
Kale	t	7-9
Kohlrabi	dst	7-10
Lettuce	dst	8-12
Mizuna	dst	5-7
Mustard Greens	dst	5-8
Pak Choy	dst	6-11
Parsley	dst	9-19
Radish	d	5-7
Rocket	d	21-35 days
Swedes (Rutabaga)	st	10-14
Salsify	d	14-21
Shallots	d	12-15
Silverbeet (Swiss Chard)	dst	7-12
Spinach	dst	5-11
Spring Onions (Bunching Onions)	dst	6-10
Turnip	d	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



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\*= frost tender

\*\*= sow after frost



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