



# Betty's Bloomers Nursery

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## The World is Waking Up---

After a long Winter's sleep, Dogwoods, Redbuds, Azaleas, Bridal Wreath, and Fruit Trees are in full bloom & lawns are greening up. However, some cool weather weeds have gotten an early start. You can help to control weeds by mowing them before they go to seed or pulling them up if the infestation is light. Apply weed killer if weeds seem to have taken over your grass. Make sure you follow label directions & be careful not to spray shrubs or trees. Apply fertilizer after the grass has completely greened up for Spring.

## What's in Season



The weather is warming up now for vegetable gardening, but you should be prepared to cover anything newly planted if we have another cold spell. Transplants and seed are readily available now at Garden Centers. Planning the layout of your garden is important. Make sure you

allow enough room for mature plants so that air flows readily around them and does not shade smaller plants. Beans, squash, cucumbers, & melons can be seeded directly into the prepared soil. Tomatoes and Peppers transplants purchased from Nurseries or Garden Centers will give you a head start on producing a harvest. There are hundreds of varieties to choose from, but you should do a little research and grow varieties that do well in your area. We grow 13 different types of Tomatoes and 9 different pepper varieties all adapted & tested for our area.

## To Do List:

Tender container grown plants that have been stored and protected indoors for the Winter can be moved outside now. Remember, their foliage is a lot like our skin in that they will sun burn easily and need to be exposed to the direct sun gradually. Start placing them in a shady area first and then give them more sun as they adapt to being outdoors.

Now is a good time to repot your plants. Moving them to a larger pot if necessary or just adding fresh potting soil and a slow release fertilizer will give them a jump start for new Spring growth. Give your plants a bath by spraying the foliage with a water hose to remove any dust or grime from sitting indoors all winter. Also, spray with insect-

icidal soap to get rid of any insects that have been thriving on your neglected plants all winter. (Make your own spray by mixing one tablespoon of Epsom Salt in a gallon of soapy water using dishwashing liquid.) Make sure you spray the underside of the leaves along with the trunk and in the soil.

## Something Extra

They say that everyone is a gardener in the Spring time when the weather is beautiful and every thing is blooming and sprouting everywhere. But then, many new gardeners just starting out become discouraged when the weather gets hot and dry and all their hard work dies. It is our responsibility as seasoned gardeners to pass on what we have learned over the years by trial and error of how to garden in Southeast Texas. Divide and share your garden with some of your neighbors, children or grandchildren and maybe inspire them to discover the love of gardening too.

## Contact us

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Happy Gardening!