

FBMG Help Desk
Question of the Week

When should I start my Spring garden?

Answer: You can start Now!



A healthy garden needs clean tools!

Clean and sanitize gardening tools

Prevent the spread of disease between plants by thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting your tools and garden equipment.

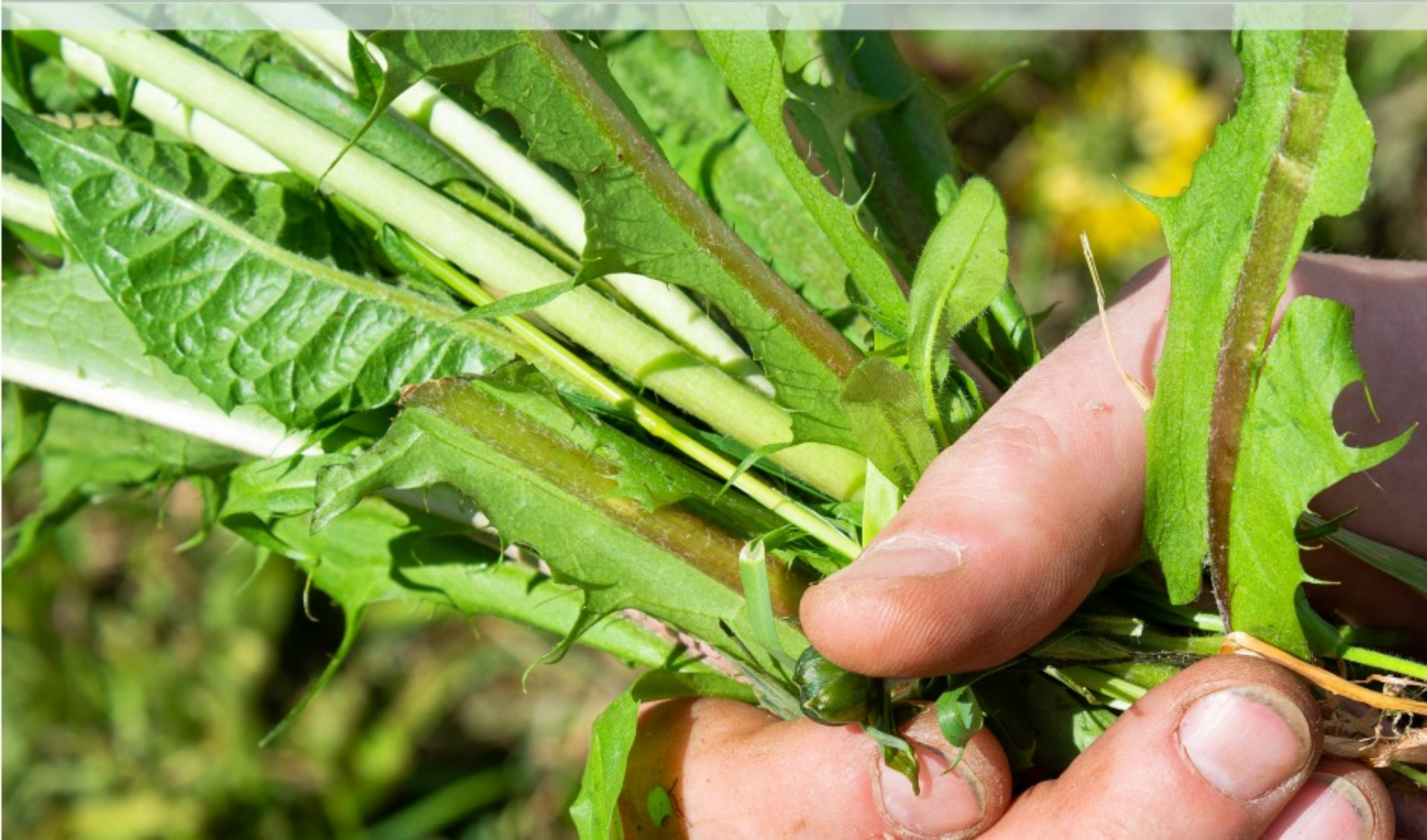


A vigorous garden needs room to grow!

Those temperate days before the last frost are perfect to...

Get your Garden Beds Ready

Remove remaining weeds or debris



A good garden starts with good soil!

Add organic matter and compost

Soil preparation is very important.

The more organic matter in the soil, the better it is for the plants.



A vital garden takes good planning!

Make a Spring Garden Plan

Be mindful of plant sun and water requirements, plant grouping aesthetics, companion plant benefits, and crop rotation




A prosperous garden takes good timing!

Don't plant until after last freeze

*Optimum and Minimum Temperatures
for Planting*

'Hardening Off'

*The process of gradually transitioning a plant from an
indoor or greenhouse location to outdoor conditions*




	°F Opt. Day	°F Min. Night
Broccoli	65-70	60
Cabbage	65	60
Cantaloupe ¹	70-75	65
Cauliflower	65-70	60
Cucumber	70-75	65
Eggplants	70-85	65
Endive & Escarole	70-75	70
Lettuce	60-65	40
Onions	65-70	60
Peppers	70-75	60
Summer squash	70-75	65
Sweetpotato	75-85	ambient
Tomatoes	65-75	60
Watermelon, seeded	85-90	80
Watermelon, seedless	85-90	85

¹ Cantaloupe and other melons



Once temperatures remain 45-50 degrees during the day, move plants outdoors to a shady, protected spot, for no more than 2-3 hours. Gradually increase the amount of sunlight the plants receive over the two-week period.



***Do you have questions
about your home
landscape and plants?***

***Contact the Fort Bend
Master Gardener Help Desk***

***Email:
FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu
Phone:
281-341-7068***

***The Help Desk is manned
Monday thru Friday,
9am-Noon***

References used in this post:

<https://agrifetoday.tamu.edu/2018/01/23/planting-time-spring-gardens-around-corner-prep-now/>

<https://extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/clean-and-disinfect-gardening-tools>

<https://giles.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/194/2020/10/Ag-2020-Southeastern-US-Vegetable-Crop-Handbook.pdf>

<https://carteret.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/04/hardening-off-plants-planting-outdoors/>

Fort Bend Master Gardener Vegetable and Herb Sale, March 11

*For more information, see the following
website...*

<https://fbmg.org/event/fort-bend-master-gardeners-spring-vegetable-and-herb-sale-open-to-the-public/>