

# THE EL DORADO NURSERY AND GARDEN NEWSLETTER

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## March/April 2021



### GARDEN CALENDAR



#### What to do in March

- Put yellow jacket traps out early to trap the Queen.
- Plant cool season vegetables. Sow warm season veggies indoors. See us for a planting guide.
- Rototill gardens and add organic matter. Do a soil test to see what nutrients you need to add. We have soil test kits available. Save \$\$ by only adding what your soil needs.
- Fertilize roses, evergreens, fruit trees, and berries.
- Prepare new lawn beds 6" deep. [See web](#) for a handout on lawn preparation.
- Shop for summer blooming bulbs and spring blooming shrubs.
- Spray roses with fungicide to prevent black spot and powdery mildew. Try including kelp spray.
- Hoe or pick spring weeds. Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent weeds.
- Hand-pick or spray star thistle seedlings before they bolt (develop flowers).



#### What to do in April

- April 15<sup>th</sup> is the estimated last frost date for the Placerville area; El Dorado Hills estimated date is April 1<sup>st</sup>; and Pollock Pines is May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Plant new rose bushes. Best choices of varieties will be in the nursery this month.
- Sow annual flowers and warm season vegetables outdoors after the last frost.
- Set out traps for earwigs and snails. Traps can be homemade or bought. See us for products and ideas.
- Fertilize spring blooming shrubs, ground covers, and conifers.
- Prune spring blooming shrubs (lilacs, forsythia, etc.) immediately after bloom.
- Plant or divide perennials.
- Thin fruit trees and fertilize. See us for products. [See web page for schedule handouts.](#)
- Set out codling moth traps in your apple trees ([This is the worm that ends up in your apple later!](#))
- Apply borer spray and whitewash trunks on fruit trees and flowering cherries.



We will continue to follow Social Distancing Guidelines for as long as it is needed. Masks required at the cash register, Gift Shop and when showing a staff member pictures on your phone. Thank you.

# Questions about Pruning Spring Blooming Shrubs?

Get the answers [HERE](#)



## What are those pesky codling moths anyway?

Found in all apple-growing areas of the world, the codling moth (*Cydia pomonella*) is considered to be one of the most destructive pests of apples. Adults are gray to brown moths with a 3/4 inch wingspan. They have a chocolate-colored patch at the tip of each forewing and coppery transverse markings.



Codling moth larvae are pink or creamy white caterpillars with mottled brown heads that tunnel through apples directly to the core. As they feed, they push out mounds of fecal material, called frass, which gathers around the entrance hole. Damage lowers the market value of the fruit and makes it unfit for human consumption. Alternate host plants include pears, crabapples, walnuts and stone fruits.



## Lifecycle

Full grown larvae pass through the winter in a cocoon beneath loose bark or in orchard litter. Pupation takes place in the spring. Moths begin emerging about the time that apple trees are in bloom and lay an average of 50 to 60 eggs on leaves, twigs and fruits. Once eggs hatch the larvae feed briefly on leaves, then damage fruit by boring into the centers. Larvae feed for three weeks, then leave to seek a suitable place to spin cocoons. There are two generations per year.

## Treatment

1. Pre-season codling moth protection can be achieved to some degree by removing and picking up old fruits from the ground. This removes some of the larvae and prevents them from reaching adulthood and starting the codling moth life cycle all over again.
2. Scrape loose bark in early spring to remove overwintering cocoons and then spray Monterey horticultural oil to eradicate eggs and first generation early instar stages.
3. Use codling moth traps to determine the peak flight period for moths, then spray trees with insecticide such as Monterey Takedown Garden Spray or Monterey Fruit Tree Plus. Pheromone traps will also help reduce male moths where populations are low and trees are isolated.

If all this fails, apples in which larva are present or have been feeding are absolutely edible. Just carve away the effected tissues and enjoy the untouched parts.



Rock&roll

## *Growing Roses in the Sierra Foothills*

Nothing can beat a rose for fabulous fragrant flowers, wide range of colors, long bloom time, and plenty of blooms for cutting. Contrary to popular belief, roses are not a lot of work. Pruning them in the dead of winter is like getting a taste of Spring, before it actually hits. See our web page for [Rose Pruning](#) guide.

Growing roses in the foothills can be a little more challenging. Up here in the hills, we have Bambi who thinks that we planted the rose salad bar just for them. What would possess a creature to eat something with huge thorns? To deer, roses are candy. Fencing your rose garden is the best solution. If that is just not possible, using one of the many “deer repellants” on the market may help. Motion activated sprinkler deterrents are very effective. Smelly sprays are somewhat effective, but work best if they are rotated, and must be reapplied frequently.

Roses are actually pretty hard to kill. Even if that wonderful grafted variety on top dies, the rootstock is sure to keep sprouting up!

Pick a location that gets at least 6 hours of full sun daily. Roses need regular water and soil that drains well. Our foothills rock and clay is just fine provided you add some compost in with it. Wide and shallow holes work best. Older more mature roses will be happy with a good drink of water a few times a week in the morning hours. Newly planted roses may need a smaller drink but more frequently. Add a nice layer of bark chips or shredded cedar to keep the roots cool. Monitor regularly for aphids and fungus in the early spring. Some like to feed with Bayer All in One Rose and Flower Care. This new product is a fertilizer, insecticide, and fungicide.

That means one application in the early spring will feed and protect your plant for six weeks. We also have organic choices including G&B Rose and Flower, Alfalfa Meal, and Maxsea Bloom. With just a little planning and maintenance you can sit back and smell the roses all summer long!

**Some of our Favorites:**



Double Delight



Miss Congenialty



Neil Diamond



Rainbows End

[See our web page for varieties coming in April.](#)