



# LOUIE'S MENIFEE NOW



## Nancy's Edition



Welcome to the Louie's Nursery Ménifée newsletter. We want to start this edition with something weighing hard on our hearts. Our dearest friend Nancy succumbed to her battle with cancer at the end of February. We hope her legacy will be remembered fondly, for she was so good, her love so strong, given selflessly always. I think of the stories she told us all, of a young girl in Honduras, big curly hair, climbing mango trees to eat the fruit. She was full of life and love of life, and we will think of her every time we taste sweet fruits and remember that it was because of her that we remember to live with love, joy, and laughter each day. Nancy, you always told us "I've got you" when we needed a helping hand, and "this too shall pass" when we were troubled. Now, just as you always cared for us, we've got you. We will continue to carry forward the goodness you represented to many of us as we work to build bridges and see beautiful commonalities in all others. As for our grief, it may never fully pass, but the sting of this loss will pass, and in its wake your memory will stay forever. We love you, Nancy.



in this edition, dedicated to our dearest Nancy, we will focus on a thriving and flourishing garden here in zone 9. Happy planting 🌱

## EARLY MARCH IN ZONE 9: THE PERFECT TIME TO START YOUR SPRING VEGETABLE GARDEN

For gardeners in USDA Hardiness Zone 9, early March marks one of the most exciting moments of the gardening year. Winter is fading, soil temperatures are rising, and the spring growing season is officially underway. With mild temperatures and a long growing window ahead, now is the ideal time to plan and begin planting a productive vegetable garden.

Understanding what can be planted right now, and what should wait a few weeks, will help ensure a steady harvest throughout spring and into early summer.



### What You Can Plant Right Now

In early March, Zone 9 gardeners can grow both cool-season crops and begin transitioning into warm-season vegetables. Many plants thrive in the mild temperatures typical of early spring.



### Cool-Season Crops

These vegetables prefer cooler weather and can tolerate light frosts, making them perfect for planting now:

- Lettuce
- Spinach
- Kale
- Swiss chard
- Carrots
- Beets
- Radishes
- Peas
- Broccoli
- Cabbage

Direct seeding many of these crops works well because the soil is already warm enough for reliable germination.

### Warm-Season Vegetables to Start in March

While summer heat lovers shouldn't be planted too early, early March is an excellent time to begin introducing some warm-season crops, especially transplants.

Gardeners can begin planting:

- Tomatoes
- Peppers
- Eggplant

If nighttime temperatures remain cool, using row covers or planting in protected areas can help young plants establish strong roots before temperatures rise.

Toward the middle to end of March, you can also start planting:

- Cucumbers
- Summer squash
- Green beans
- Corn

Getting these crops started now allows them to grow vigorously before the intense heat of late spring and summer arrives.

### Preparing Your Garden Beds

Early March is also a good time to prepare garden spaces for the busy season ahead.

A few simple steps can make a big difference:

- Loosen soil to improve root growth
- Add compost to boost nutrients and soil structure
- Apply mulch to retain moisture and suppress weeds
- Check irrigation systems before temperatures begin climbing

Healthy soil now will support stronger plants and higher yields later.

### Planning for Continuous Harvest

Because Zone 9 has such a long growing season, succession planting can keep vegetables coming for months.

For example:

- Plant lettuce or radishes every two to three weeks for continuous harvest.
- Stagger bean plantings through spring so production doesn't happen all at once.

With a little planning, your spring garden can provide fresh produce well into early summer.

### Start Your Spring Garden Today

Early March is the moment when spring gardens in Zone 9 truly begin to take shape. By planting cool-season vegetables now and gradually introducing warm-season crops, gardeners can make the most of the long and productive growing season ahead.

If you're ready to get your garden started, Louie's Nursery carries a wide variety of healthy vegetable starters perfect for Zone 9 spring planting. Their selection of tomatoes, peppers, leafy greens, and seasonal vegetables makes it easy to jump-start your garden and enjoy a productive harvest this year.

