

## Key Points from the Mar. 2017 Uvalde County Lunch & Learn

### Backyard Basics : Springtime Tips for Lawn, Garden, and Wildlife

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1. Lawn activities for this time of year include irrigating if needed, mowing warm-season grasses, fertilizing, and preparing the soil.
2. Garden activities should include finishing up all pruning and cutting back old growth once you have seen new growth. Plant cool-season annuals for a nice pop of color, but be prepared that these won't last when the heat comes!
3. Spring is a time when wildlife become very active and are often seen out and about.
  - a. The best thing you can do to manage wildlife is learn about your local species and their habitat needs.
  - b. You can manage your lawn and garden as habitat for wildlife, either to attract species you would like to see (such as songbirds), or to deter species that are a nuisance.
  - c. Conserving water is a wildlife tip that benefits your entire local ecosystem. In the lawn tips, we talked about irrigating your lawn if needed. Watering **only** when needed, and during the coolest part of the day, is better for the ecosystem, better for plants, and saves you money!
4. An all-around tip for lawn, garden, and wildlife management is to check long-term weather forecasts to prepare for what is ahead. The three-month outlooks, as of March, indicated that warmer-than-average temperatures are likely to continue in this area.