

March

Thrifty Gardening Tips: Cultivating Greenery on a Budget

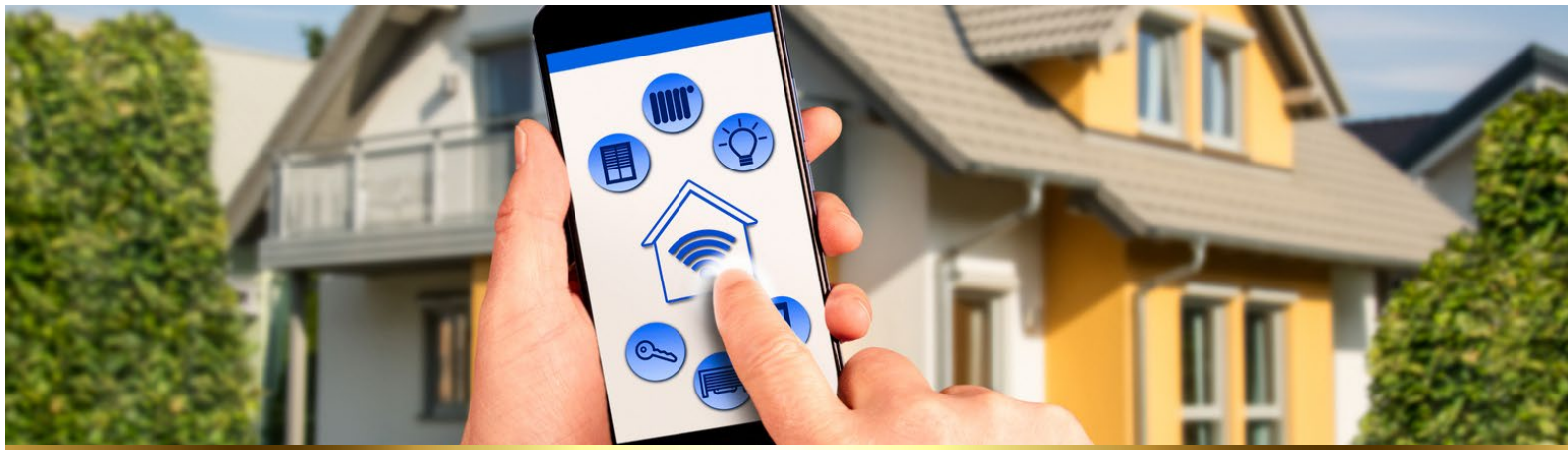
DID YOU KNOW...

According to Irish folklore, people wear a shamrock on St. Patrick's Day because the saint used its three leaves to explain the Holy Trinity.

Sprucing up the yard can get pricey, but here are some cost-effective ways to care for your yard and garden this March:

- **DIY Seed Starting:** Instead of purchasing seed starting kits, repurpose household items like egg cartons and yogurt cups for starting seeds indoors.
- **Homemade Compost:** Create your own compost pile using kitchen scraps, yard waste, and shredded paper for nutrient-rich soil without the cost of fertilizers.
- **Seed Swapping or Sharing:** Consider organizing a seed swap with friends, neighbors, or through community gardening groups.
- **Natural Pest Control:** Explore DIY pest control methods like companion planting, homemade sprays (neem oil or garlic spray), or introducing beneficial insects to manage pests without expensive chemical solutions.
- **Reuse Garden Items:** Instead of buying new, repurpose items like containers, buckets, or old furniture as planters or garden decor.
- **Save Rainwater:** Set up a rain barrel or use large containers to collect rainwater. This free water source can irrigate your garden, reducing water bills.
- **Local Plant Swaps or Sales:** Look for local plant swaps or community sales where you can exchange or buy plants cheaper than nurseries or big box stores.



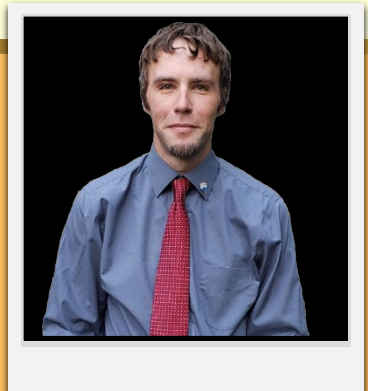


Top 9 Safety Systems Tasks To Stay Safe All Year Long

- 1. Smoke Detectors:** Test each smoke detector by pressing the test button and ensuring it emits a loud sound. Replace batteries if needed.
- 2. Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Check the carbon monoxide detectors for proper functionality by pressing the test button.
- 3. Fire Extinguishers:** Inspect fire extinguishers for visible damage, corrosion, or leaks. Ensure they are easily accessible and have not passed their expiration date.
- 4. Security Systems:** Check your home security system by arming and disarming it to ensure proper functioning. Test individual sensors and cameras to ensure they are working and positioned correctly.
- 5. Escape Plans and Routes:** Review and practice fire escape plans with household members, especially children, to ensure everyone knows the evacuation routes and meeting points.
- 6. Electrical Outlets and Wiring:** Inspect electrical outlets and wiring for any signs of damage, overheating, or fraying.
- 7. Appliance Safety:** Check the safety features on appliances such as stoves, ovens, and microwaves. Ensure they are functioning properly.
- 8. Water and Plumbing Safety:** Inspect pipes, faucets, and water heaters for leaks or signs of corrosion.
- 9. Child Safety Measures:** Install safety gates, secure cabinets, and cover electrical outlets to protect young children from potential hazards around the house.

WEIRD, BUT TRUE...

Magpies are considered one of the most intelligent animals in the world and the only non-mammal species able to recognize themselves in a mirror test.



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