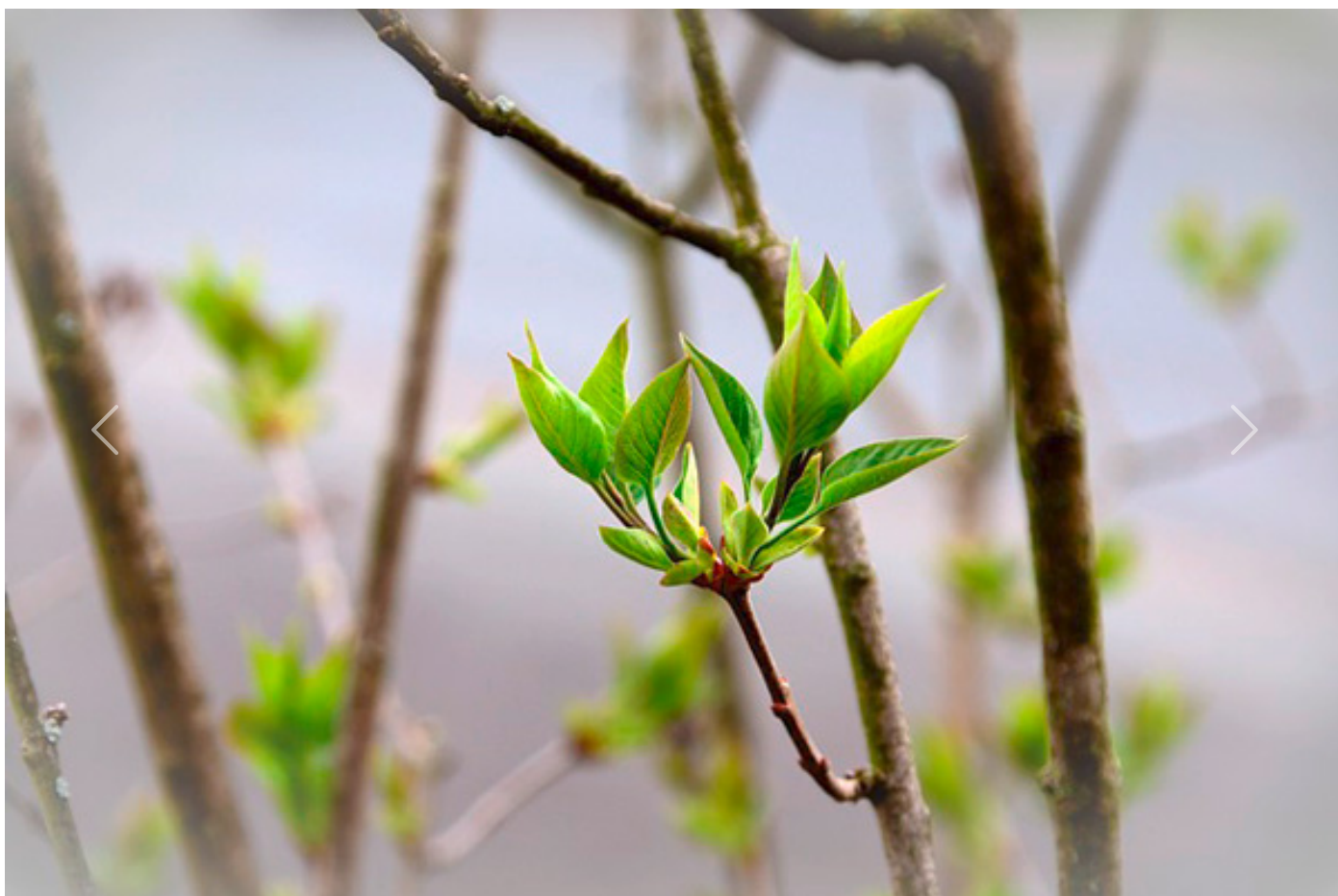


# At the end of March – conditions for carrying out seasonal agrotechnical activities

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During the last week of March, a significant increase in temperatures and a lasting activation of the vegetation processes in the autumn-sown crops is forecast.

During the period, the winter cereal crops will be predominantly in the tillering stage. Only in isolated locations, in the agrometeorological stations of Haskovo, Chirpan and Kazanlak, wheat will be at the third leaf stage. In the perennial plantations, bud swelling and bud break will occur, and in certain regions the most advanced stone fruit species in their development will be in the flower bud and beginning of flowering stages.

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## Pre-bloom spraying – a key element for the health status of fruit trees

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On most days of the period, relatively dry weather is forecast, providing an opportunity for carrying out seasonal agrotechnical activities – pre-sowing soil cultivation and sowing of spring crops, inspection of autumn-sown crops for weed infestation and pests. Conditions will be suitable for conducting pre-bloom plant protection spraying in perennial plantations against some overwintering pathogens and pests – scab in pome fruit species, shot-hole disease in stone fruits, as well as against the particularly dangerous European red mite in all fruit trees and vineyards.

The period coincides with the optimal agrotechnical time for sowing sunflower in the regions of the Danube Plain.