



FEBRUARY IN YOUR GARDEN

Work in the Garden – Primary tasks this month include planning your spring garden and major pruning of dormant fruit and shade trees, vines and rose bushes. Proper pruning will help control and redirect plant growth, as well as stimulate fruit and flower production. After the last frost, remove any dead, diseased or damaged limbs. Don't be afraid to prune roses hard to eliminate a lot of the old wood. For more information on pruning, visit our Pruning Basics page.

Planting and Transplanting – Plant dormant deciduous stone fruit trees, shade trees, grapes, berries, hardy perennials, roses, shrubs and wisteria now through the spring. Also, plant Azaleas and Camellias now, which is the best time of the year for selection and to see the pretty colors in action. Water thoroughly but don't over water; cooler temperatures, shorter days and wet periods will decrease the need for watering. Plant or transplant to other parts of the garden any deciduous trees or shrubs this month after the last frost. Prune to compensate for root loss and water with a water-soluble fertilizer.

Bedding Plants – Refresh your cool season annuals such as Calendulas, Cyclamen, Dianthus, Pansies, Iceland Poppies, Stock, Snapdragons, Alyssum and Violas when available. For some color in your garden's shady spots consider Columbine, Primrose, Begonia and New Guinea impatiens.

Vegetables and Herbs – Clean and prepare beds; add an organic fertilizer such as Gro-Power. Plant artichokes, asparagus, rhubarb and strawberries.

Lawns – During the winter, cool season lawns such as fescues, annual rye and bluegrass can get rust. Help avoid the problem with a dose of high nitrogen food. A pre-emergent herbicide will help prevent weeds.

Roses – Prune all roses back now and use a copper spray or dormant spray. Irrigate new plants as needed depending on soil and weather conditions. Fertilize with systemic fertilizer with insecticide like Bayer Rose and Flower.

Houseplants – Check for disease and insect damage. Heaters and poor light conditions have probably taken their toll this winter. Prune dead leaves or broken branches, wipe dust off leaves, and spray with insecticide if necessary.

Pest Control – Deciduous woody plants, particularly fruit trees and roses, need spraying now with a dormant oil spray to avoid many spring insect and bacterial infestations. Repeat spraying 2-3 times before buds open. Bait or hand-pick snails. Pick up fallen leaves and spent flowers. Spray camellias against bud miners.

Time for Planning and Preparing

Take some time now while the weather is cooler and much of your garden may be dormant to plan your garden and prepare for the year.

While you can purchase bare root roses and deciduous fruit trees in stores now, consider waiting a month or two. Many will be in bloom then and you can choose one you know you like and has healthy top and root growth. We will have many colors and varieties available to choose from.

Camellias are in bloom now. Select from a large variety of colors, flower shapes, and bloom sizes.

***Information provided from Evergreen Nursery**
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