



Through the
Garden
Gate

February Gardening Tips and Reminders

February Gardening Tips and Reminders

In your garden

Heathers, witch hazels and winter hazels bloom this month so take time to enjoy the scenery.

Make certain to continue feeding the birds in your garden. Natural food sources are very scarce at this time of year. Water is very important for birds, so if you have a birdbath in your garden, be sure to use a de-icer or warming element to prevent the water from freezing.

Now is the ideal time to prune your fruit trees. Later in the month and in March make certain to spray your fruit trees, roses and other trees and shrubs with a dormant spray. Dormant spray should only be applied if the temperature is above freezing and if your plants had a problem the previous year. Since some dormant sprays are for insects and other diseases or for a combination of the two, it is always best to consult with your local nursery.

This month, brush or sweep away a heavy snow off evergreens to prevent breakage.

Prune shade trees if necessary and plant and transplant perennials. Also, protect your landscape from any hungry deer with wildlife control strategies.

If you have any outdoor containers that are not being utilized throughout the winter, make certain to turn them over in order to keep them from collecting water that could ultimately freeze and crack the container.

Lawns

If you want to keep your lawn looking it's best, it is of the utmost importance to maintain the proper pH level. February is a great time to pick up a soil test kit in order to test your lawn's pH. If the pH level needs to be raised, this is the month to lime the lawn. Lawns typically prefer a pH range of 6.2–6.8. If your tests show a level lower than 6.0, you should lime the lawn.

Apply fertilizer and grass seed to your lawn in February. Use a slow-release fertilizer and a quality grass seed blend. The seed should lie on the ground until the soil temperature is warm enough for it to germinate. The late winter/early spring rains will help to work the seed into the soil and provide the much needed moisture to help germination.

Starting Seeds

Many flower and vegetable seeds can be started indoors this month.

You can start any of the following flower seeds: Asters, Calendula, Candytuft, Carnations, Centaurea, Chrysanthemums, Coleus, Coreopsis, Dahlia, Gerbera, Geraniums, Impatiens, Pansies, Petunia, Salvia and Snapdragon.

You can start any of the following vegetable seeds: Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Leeks, Onions, and Spinach toward the middle or latter part of the month.

Houseplants

This is the time to start feeding houseplants again and later in the month with a good quality indoor plant food.

Re-pot root bound houseplants to a larger pot.

Decorate your home with blooming plants like Primrose, Gardenias, Daffodils, Tulips, Amaryllis, Cyclamen, Winter Daphne and more.

Check your houseplant's leaves for insect problems like scale, mites and mealy bugs. If you detect any problem, use the appropriate control. Many ready-to-use spray products can be purchased from your local nursery.

Further check houseplants for leaves that may be turning yellow and brown. Lower leaves that curl up and fall off may be too warm, too dry, or the plant may not be getting enough water.

*Through the
Garden
Gate*