

# Over the Garden Gate

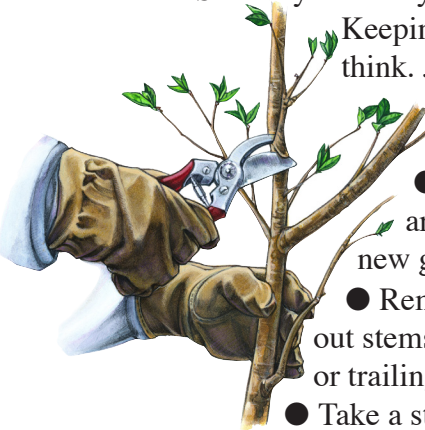


<http://www.overthegardengate.org>

## Pruning School with Tara February 7th

**E LOCAL S**

February is the month for pruning all plants, trees and shrubs. Join Tara for a demonstration of the correct way to prune roses at the MPAC Demo Bed on Saturday February 7th at 10:00 a.m.



Keeping roses in shape is easier than most gardeners think. Just follow this simple checklist in

late winter or early spring, before growth begins:

- Remove dead and damaged stems. These are the ones that are dull brown or gray with no new growth. Cut near the base of the plant.
- Remove crossing or rubbing branches. Also take out stems that are growing toward the center of the bush or trailing on the ground.
- Take a step back and look at the shape. Trim branches that don't follow the shape you're looking for. The goal is to have evenly spaced stems on all sides of the bush with the center somewhat open.

**FEBRUARY 3:** Wichita County Master Gardener Association monthly meeting is at Wichita County Extension Office, 2nd floor, 6th and Scott, Wichita Falls, TX. **Time: 5:30 p.m.**

**FEBRUARY 7:** Pruning School with Tara. **Location:** MPEC Demo Bed in front of the Hockey Office, 1000 5th Street, Wichita Falls, TX. There is not a cost. **Time: 10 a.m.**

**FEBRUARY 12:** Red River Native Plant Society monthly meeting is at the Kemp Center for the Arts, 1300 Lamar, Wichita Falls, Texas. **Time: 6:00 p.m.**

**FEBRUARY 21-22:** "As Time Goes By" 2009 Home and Garden Festival. **Location:** MPEC Convention Center, 1000 5th Street, Wichita Falls, TX. **Times:** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 21 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 22.

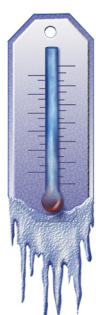
**FEBRUARY 23:** Spring Gardening with Rex Bristol at River Bend. **Time: 7-9 p.m.**

**FEBRUARY 26:** "Edible Arrangements" by Dolly Sloan and Elisabeth Wenger, at the Woman's Forum, 2120 Speedway, Wichita Falls, TX. Lunch reservations required. **Time:** 12 noon. [www.womansforum.org](http://www.womansforum.org). 766-3347

**MARCH 26:** "Clark Gardens" by Debra Clark Birdwell of Henrietta, at the Woman's Forum, 2120 Speedway, Wichita Falls, TX. Lunch reservations required. **Time:** 12 noon. [www.womansforum.org](http://www.womansforum.org). 766-3347

## Garden Check List for February

1. Cool-season annual flowers can be planted.
2. Replace any winter-damaged or unhealthy plants now.
3. Fertilize established cool-season annuals once this month.
4. Add organic matter to vegetable gardens and flower beds.
5. Mulch before spring to help retain soil moisture (see page 2).
6. Water at least twice this month in the absence of rain—this includes lawns, landscape plantings, vegetable gardens, and fruit plantings.
7. Check your irrigation system for proper performance.



### Freeze-Dates for Wichita Falls

- ° Last Spring Freeze: 3/27
- ° First Fall Freeze: 11/10
- ° Freeze-Free Days: 228

8. February is pruning month for all plants, trees and shrubs
9. Apply pre-emergence herbicides
10. Fertilize trees, shrubs, and vines.
11. Plant new or transplant trees and shrubs around landscape if needed.



## Work Day Dates and Times to be Announced at the Feb. Meeting

## Calculating How Much Mulch to Buy

To figure out the number of bags or cubic yards of mulch to purchase, multiply the area by the desired depth of mulch expressed in feet; then divide that amount by the number of cubic feet in a bag or cubic yard (27 cubic feet=1 cubic yard):

1000 square feet at a 2-inch (2/12 foot) mulch depth:

$1000 \times 2/12 = 167$  cubic feet

(Note:  $2/12 = 0.167$ )

167 cubic feet divided by 2 cubic feet per bag = 83.5 or 84 bags

OR

167 cubic feet divided by 27 cubic feet per yard = 6.5 cubic yards (rounded up for waste).

**Seeds, Seeds, Seeds** needed for the *2009 Home and Garden Festival* give away. Don't forget to bring you seeds to the February meeting. Be sure to indicate what kind of seeds they are. Give your seeds to RubyAdkins.

## Give Your Houseplants Some Tender, Loving Care

February is a good time to get your indoor plants in shape. Most only need a good whacking with clippers to remove dead leaves and trim overgrown stems. After pruning (and before adding a dose of slow-release plant food), check to see if the soil is packed; if so, use chopsticks to poke five or six holes, so water and air can get down to the roots. If dirt has eroded, add an inch of fresh potting soil, mixed with dried coffee grounds (to keep the texture light) and stir it into the old with a fork. A damp microfibre cloth removes dust and grime on hard-leaf plants. Commercial leaf polish makes them shiny, but so does a drop of vegetable oil—not cooking spray, which can smother the plant—on a paper towel: Whip over leaf tops only, so the pores underneath can breathe, then buff to gleam.

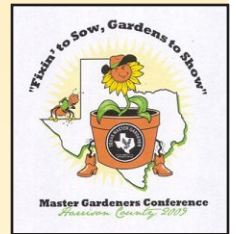
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**FEBRUARY 27 TO MARCH 1:** All-Texas Garden Show with Neil Sperry at the Arlington Convention Center, Arlington, TX. [www.arlingtoncc.com](http://www.arlingtoncc.com). (817) 459-5000

**MARCH 7—APRIL 12:** The 25th Annual Dallas Blooms at the Dallas Arboretum. 214-515-6500 Open Daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**APRIL 23-24 & 25:** 2009 Texas Master Gardener State Conference: Marshall, TX.

Make plans to join us for the 2009 Texas Master Gardener State Conference, that will



be held in beautiful East Texas. The conference will feature world class azaleas, dogwood and crape myrtles, as well as unique bed & breakfast establishments, just to name a few. This year, something new, the *Earthkind Rose Workshop*, an all-day session will be presented the day before the '09 conference and will feature some of the most renowned experts in the earthkind rose field!! Information on registration for this workshop will be added to the regular registration form, come a day earlier and don't miss-out on this added feature! Harrison County Master Gardener Association  
c/o Extension Office  
102 West Houston  
Marshall, TX. 75670  
(903) 935-8413  
See this link for more information:  
<http://tcaaa.tamu.edu/09statemeeting.htm>



## 2009 International Master Gardener Conference: Las Vegas, NV March 22-26

The International Master Gardener Conference: Las Vegas, NV. The International Master Gardener Conference will address issues that gardeners ever where face--water conservation, proper plant selection, soil enrichment, pest control--while as presenting new concepts in environmental stewardship and "green" technologies. Registration is now available. <http://www.unce.unr.edu/imgc>.

If you have questions or need help navigating the website, call or email (702-257-5587 or [edmundsa@unce.unr.edu](mailto:edmundsa@unce.unr.edu).)

### Association Contacts:

Lulu Canan, *President* 691-4496; Paula Savage, *Vice President* 691-0231; Gail Elmore, *Secretary* 569-0188; Beth Turlington, *Treasurer* 692-7570

### Committees Chairperson:

Paula Savage, *Newsletter* 691-0231; Beth Turlington 692-7570 and Mary Barry 592-2075, *Web Site*; Jerry Warren, *Volunteer and Advanced Training Hours Recorder* 767-2020 or [enenjay@nts-online.net](mailto:enenjay@nts-online.net)

**State Directors:** Peg Marquardt, Mary Barry, Delores Lane and Jeff Smith

**Specialists:** Peg Marquardt, Rainwater Harvesting and Plant Propagation; Mary Barry, Jr Master Gardener Advisor:

Tara McKnight, CEA-Hort, Texas Cooperative Extension, Wichita County (940)716-8610