



GARDENING IN FEBRUARY

GARDEN TIP

- Apply pre-emergent to the lawn between now and March 15 to control spring germinating weeds. Water in the pre-emergent lightly to get the granules off the leaves and onto the soil.
- For cool-season, non-grassy weeds such as clover, henbit, dandelions, and chickweed, apply a broad-leafed weed killer containing 2-4-D when daytime temperatures will be above 70 degrees and no rain expected for 48 hours.
- Apply horticultural oil spray to fruit trees, hollies, camellias, oaks, crape myrtles, and others early this month before new buds begin to swell to control scale insects.
- Consider keeping a garden journal with information on planting dates, varieties planted, care instructions, and notes on observations and experiences with plant selections.

PLANT

- Bare-root roses
- Move established trees and shrubs: Leave as large a soil ball as possible keeping the roots intact. Prune the top growth and thin to half to compensate for root loss.
- Vegetable garden: Onions and peas early. Cole crops such as cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts and cauliflower. Irish potatoes, leafy and root vegetables such as leaf lettuce, carrots, radishes, turnips, beets, chard, and spinach later this month.
- In the flower garden: Early in the month plant pinks and snapdragons. Later in the month plant larkspur, English daisies, sweet alyssum, ornamental chard, petunias, calendulas, Iceland poppies, and stocks.
- Dig and divide mallows, gloriosa daisies, cannas, mums, fall asters and salvias later in the month before they start growing.

PRUNE

- Bush roses: Remove dead, dying, and weak canes. Leave 4 to 8 healthy canes, and remove about half of the top growth. Make each cut just above a bud that faces out from the center. Use good shears that will make clean cuts.
- Climbing roses should be trained and not pruned. Weave long canes through openings in trellises or arbors and tie them with jute twine or plastic/wire plant ties. Securing canes now prevents damage from winter winds, and contributes to a more refined look to the garden when roses are blooming.
- Peach and plum trees: Remove vertical shoots and maintain their bowl shape.
- Other fruit and nut trees: Remove the vertical water sprouts on apples and remove dead or damaged branches.
- Nandinas: To reduce height, select a tall cane, follow it to the base of the plant and cut there.
- Cut Autumn Sage back to 8-10 inches
- Groundcovers: Asian jasmine, liriopse, and mondo grass can be trimmed with a line trimmer or mower set on the highest setting early this month.

FERTILIZE

- New trees and shrubs: Use a liquid, high-phosphorus root-stimulator fertilizer monthly
- Asparagus: All-nitrogen fertilizer early in the month. Harvest stalks for 6-8 weeks, then feed again and allow plants to grow the rest of the year.
- Cool season turf such as fescue and ryegrass late in the month with all-nitrogen fertilizer. Wait until late March or April to feed St. Augustine and bermuda lawns.
- Pansies and other cool season plants with a high-nitrogen water soluble plant food every 2 to 3 weeks to keep them growing and blooming vigorously.

For horticulture questions call 903-583-7453 or email fanninmastergardeners@gmail.com.

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Helpful site <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/>

