



Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article January 30, 2017

February Garden To-Do List

by Lydia Holley

February is a short month, but the list of garden chores is long. Make certain your pruning tools are sharp and clean. Hopefully, you cleaned out your vegetable beds last month and are ready to plant. Pruning and planting top the list of chores for this month.



Prune fruit trees, nut trees and grapevines. Landscape trees can also be pruned now. Roses and other shrubs should be pruned this month, unless the shrub is an early spring bloomer, such as azaleas, Indian hawthorne, or spring blooming camellias. If you have shrubs that bloom early in the spring, wait to prune them until after they have bloomed, otherwise, you will be cutting this year's blooms off.

Some hydrangeas bloom on old wood, while some bloom on new wood. Some can bloom on both. If you are uncertain which type of hydrangea you have, it is best to wait until late summer to prune them.

Roses require different pruning methods depending upon which type of rose you have. Properly pruning a hybrid tea is different than pruning an antique tea rose. Know which type of rose you have before you start cutting away.

When pruning trees, be careful not to prune into the branch collar. If you are pruning a heavy branch, cut off a large portion of the branch first so the weight of the branch will not instigate a tear. It is best to prune your trees into a good shape when they are young.

You can continue to transplant most shrubs this month while they are still dormant.

In the vegetable beds, you may plant carrots, lettuce, seed potatoes, radish and spinach in February. You may also put out sweet (English) peas if you did not plant them last month.

Onion plants and asparagus crowns can also be set out. Since asparagus is a perennial plant, you will need to select your asparagus bed carefully. Asparagus also requires patience as it takes years to be able to harvest its stalks. Still, most feel that those tender, flavorful spring delicacies are well worth the time it takes to grow them.

If you started broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower seeds indoor last month, those plants can be hardened off and planted out later this month. Be certain you continue to protect them and all your young vegetable plants from freezes.

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