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Get Ready for Spring

by Lydia Holley

Is your garden ready for spring? Here are a few things you can do to make certain your spring garden is at its best.

Clean up your vegetable beds. Remove any leftover dead vegetables from last summer, remove weeds, and determine where to plant this year's vegetables using a rotation schedule.

In February, you can plant seeds or transplants of cool weather vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage, collards, carrots, kohlrabi, lettuce, English (sweet) peas, Swiss chard, and spinach. You may also plant seed potatoes.

As tempting as it seems, do not purchase tomato transplants just yet. However, you may start tomato seeds indoors. By the time your tomato seedlings are large enough to transplant into the garden, and hardened off, it will not be too early to put them outdoors. You will also have the satisfaction of having raised your own tomatoes from seed.

Look through seed catalogs and order your beans, peas, watermelon, cantaloupe, eggplant, pepper, corn, okra, and other warm season vegetable seeds now so you will be ready to plant them when the time is right.

In the flower beds, you may begin pruning your roses. Be certain that you know how to correctly prune the type of rose that you have. Also be certain to use clean, sharp pruners. Keep an eye out for signs and symptoms of rose rosette virus.

You may also prune evergreen shrubs now. Do not prune them, however, if they bloom in spring. Wait to cut those shrubs back until after they have bloomed.

Walk around your garden and cut off any dead stalks of perennials that you may have left for winter interest. Although it is too early to fertilize with liquid or chemical fertilizers, you may begin to put compost or composted manure around shrubs, perennials, and trees as these types of fertilizers are slowly released.

Get your garden tools in shape. Sharpen your pruners, garden shears, and manual edgers. Do not forget to maintain your mechanical garden tools. Mowers, tillers, chain saws, etc. can all be looked at now to make certain they will be ready when you need them.

Daffodils are just beginning to bloom. As they open their bright, sunny blooms, take time to appreciate them. Not all of gardening should be work. There should also be plenty of time set aside for enjoyment.



There is a lot that can be done in the garden right now, even though the calendar still says it is winter. Take advantage of nice days now to help make this year's garden your best one ever.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com or visit www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org.