

February Garden Tips

GENERAL

- ⊗ Repair and paint lawn and garden tools, window boxes, lawn furniture, tools and other items in preparation for outdoor gardening and recreational use.
- ⊗ Continue planning for the summer landscape of your dreams.
- ⊗ Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count February 18 to 22 and report results online at gbbc.birdcount.org



HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- ⊗ Continue harvesting indoor edible plants.
- ⊗ [Test the viability](#) of last year's leftover seeds and discard those with low germination percentage.
- ⊗ The indoor seed-starting season traditionally begins on Valentine's Day, February 14 and runs to St. Patrick's Day, March 17.
- ⊗ Check stored produce and flower bulbs for rot, shriveling or excess moisture. Discard damaged material.
- ⊗ Force branches of forsythia and pussy willow to flower indoors by placing them in water.
- ⊗ Check houseplant soil for dryness before watering. Move to brighter windows, if needed.
- ⊗ Give your loved one a flower with meaning by consulting [The Meaning of Flowers](#) brochure at web.extension.illinois.edu/fmpt/hort

LANDSCAPE (Lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers)

- ⊗ Check protective mulches, rodent shields, salt/wind screens and other winter plant protection to make sure they are still in place. Don't remove protective mulch from perennials too early.
- ⊗ Prune landscape plants, except early spring bloomers, which should be pruned after flowers fade. Remove dead, dying or unsightly plant parts, sprouts growing at or near the base of a tree trunk, and crossed tree branches. Birches, maples, dogwoods, and other heavy sap bleeders can be pruned in early summer to avoid the sap flow, although bleeding is not harmful to the tree.

GARDEN (Vegetables, fruits and herbs)

- ⊗ This year plan to grow at least one new vegetable that you've never grown before. If space is limited, consider [new dwarf varieties and container gardens](#).
- ⊗ Fertilize fruit trees as soon as possible after the ground thaws but before blossom time.
- ⊗ Prune fruit trees and grapes in late February or early March after the worst of the winter cold is over but before spring growth begins.
- ⊗ Get your cold frame ready and plant a row of leaf lettuce for some early garden fresh greens.

February Weekly Planner

Week of _____

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday



Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

February Weekly Planner

Week of _____

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday



Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

February Weekly Planner

Week of _____

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday



Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

February Weekly Planner

Week of _____

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday



Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

February Pictures/Sketches/ Observations

