

February Garden Calendar

Local Horticulture Happenings:

Sign up for home landscape class, 537-6350.

Participate in Manhattan Area Garden Show last weekend in Pottorf Hall, Cico Park.

Vegetables and Fruits

Draw garden layouts to assist with the planning process.
Review garden notes about successes and failure in the garden.
Order seeds for spring planting.
Select varieties and order new fruit trees.
Take a soil test if one has not been done the last five years.
Start broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage transplants.
Prune: Fruit trees like apples, pears and cherries. Peach and nectarines just prior to bloom time. Grapes, raspberries, and blackberries.
Incorporate manure or compost into garden areas for soil improvement.
Avoid working the soil when it is wet.
Check dates on stored seed packets. Sprout a few from each packet in a moist paper towel. Discard packets with poor results.

Flowers

Start seeds for transplanting in the spring.
Check fall planted perennials and water if needed.
Watch for frost heaving of tender perennials and cover if needed.
Replenish winter mulch around roses and other plants.
Check bulbs in storage and discard if rotted.
Prepare catalog orders.

Lawns

To prevent lawn suffocation, rake fallen leaves.
Review lawn service contracts and make changes.
Tune up and repair the mower to get a jump on the season.
Avoid walking on the lawn when the soil is frozen to avoid foot prints.

Trees and Shrubs

Check for rabbit damage on young trees and shrubs.
Water fall planted trees, shrubs, and evergreens if the soil is dry and not frozen.
Apply dormant oil for control of scale and mites.
Prune: Begin spring pruning. However, do not prune spring flowering trees and shrubs until after bloom. Cut twigs and branches of spring shrubs and bring them indoors to add a splash of spring color.
On warm days, prepare garden soil for early planting.
Check shrubs for bagworm cases and destroy
Build new bird houses

Houseplants

Check plants for insects, mites or other problems and treat as needed.
Withhold fertilization until spring arrives.
Remove dust build up on plants by placing in the shower and washing off.
Water as needed, avoid letting roots set in water.

Keep plants out of hot or cold drafts.

Additional resources for the month:

Pruning Fruit Trees C-631

Fruit Pest Control for Home Gardens C-592

Vegetable Garden Guide MF-315

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for Life”*