



Your Gardening To-Do List for February

Planting Guide

- You can plant strawberries now; consider growing them in hanging baskets to void fungus and insects attacking the fruit
- Transplant tomatoes into pots which you can bring inside if the weather turns cold; In a few weeks you can replant these in larger pots or in the grown.
- Start your lettuce seeds and set out fresh seeds every 2-3 weeks

Pests

Keep an eye out for loopers and aphids on cool-season vegetables and annuals. Use the most organic solution possible for treating these insects. Check for scale insects on ornamentals such as camellias, hollies, magnolias, and Japanese blueberries. Treat with horticultural oil spray while it is still cool.

Lawn

Apply pre-emergent to stop spring weeds such as crabgrass, and goosegrass before they start.

Birds

Clean and repair purple martin houses as necessary. Re-raise and position for martin scouts. Keep 20 feet away from trees and buildings for a clear flight pattern. Goldfinches are feeding. Hang thistle or nyjer seed socks for these cuties. Keep suet feeders filled for hungry winter birds – their natural food sources are slim right now.

Freezes

Continue to keep an eye on the weather and stay informed on nighttime lows. Have frost cloth on hand for light frosts. If the temperature drops below 32, double wrap tender plants to ensure proper insulation. Avoid using plastic against foliage, but it can be used as the second exterior layer when covering plants. Remove plastic during the day. TIP: Heavy duty clothespins or spare bricks can be used to secure and weight down cloths.

Fertilize

Fertilize established trees and shrubs, except Azaleas and camellias with a good all-around organic fertilizer.