



Guilford Gardening Journal

Timely Tips for Your Central North Carolina Garden

February

Ornamentals & Houseplants

- Cut back the old foliage of ornamental grasses like Muhly grass.
- Liriope and mondo grass can be mowed with a mower on its highest setting.
- Propagate houseplants – African Violet, Begonia, Pothos Ivy can be rooted in water then transplanted.

Edibles

- Late February, start seed indoors for tomato and pepper transplants.
- Sow seeds for cool season crops like lettuce and peas directly in the garden. Plant broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage transplants.
- Control over-wintering insects and diseases on fruit trees. Check fruit trees for egg masses of the eastern tent caterpillar and remove. Eggs appear as dark brown or gray collars that encircle small twigs.
- Prune fruit trees to help develop the desired shape as well as removing dead, damaged & diseased limbs.

Lawns

- Service power equipment like your lawn mower. Make sure to change the oil, replace filters and spark plugs. Also make sure the blade is sharp.
- Apply fertilizer to cool season fescue. Applications should be based on 1 lb. of nitrogen per thousand sq. ft. The next fertilizer application will be made in September.
- If you wish to use a pre-emergent herbicide to help control summer annual weeds such as crabgrass, February is the time to apply. Always follow label directions.
- Control weeds such as wild onions & garlic and other cool-season weeds.

Trees & Shrubs

- Remove any broken or storm damaged limbs.
- Hardwood cuttings of many landscape plants like forsythia, hydrangea, spirea, and weigela can be taken now.
- Prune roses. Thin to 3 – 5 good strong canes and shorten canes to 15 inches.
- Plant bare root roses now in well-drained soil. Look for a site with at least 6-8 hours of sunlight.
- Branches of forsythia, quince, winter honeysuckle, and flowering cherry may be forced indoors. Place cut stems in a vase of water and change water every 4 days.
- Continue pruning dormant trees & shrubs before new growth begins. Don't prune spring blooming trees & shrubs until after they bloom.

Miscellaneous

- Clean and repair garden tools.
- Encourage birds to nest in your yard by providing water and putting up birdhouses.

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