

Things to do in February

Plant Care

- Prune hybrid tea, grandiflora, and floribunda roses mid-month at 45-degree angles just above outward facing buds. Remove dead wood and crossing branches. Prune climbers after first bloom by removing oldest canes only. Prune shrub, tea, China, polyantha, and miniature roses with hedge clippers.
- Plant roses, groundcovers, trees, shrubs, vines, fruit/nuts, petunias, and snapdragons.
- Plant onion sets early in the month.
- Plant Irish potatoes around Valentine's Day.
- Begin to plant your garden with lettuce, cilantro, parsley, radishes, mustard, carrots, beets, turnips, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, kale, collards, Swiss chard, spinach, and cauliflower.
- Cut back frozen perennials and tropicals.

Pests

- Begin regular disease prevention programs for susceptible roses.
- Treat aphids on ornamentals with strong spray of water, insecticidal soap, or other appropriately labeled insecticide.
- At first sign of cabbage loopers on broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower apply BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*).

Odds and Ends

- Clean, sharpen, and oil outdoor tools.
- Check irrigation systems for missing or broken heads. Clean filters.
- Service mowers and power equipment.
- Clean out and/or mount bluebird nest boxes.
- Clean out and/or erect purple martin houses.
- Keep bird feeders filled with black oil sunflower seed.
- Keep bird baths clean and filled.