



February Gardening Checklist

- It is National Bird Feeding month! Send some love to your feathered friends by [keeping feeders full](#).
- Clean bird feeders about every two weeks with a 10% bleach solution. Refill after they have dried thoroughly.
- Providing [suet and seed cakes](#) for the birds this month is a beneficial and welcome treat.
- [Black oil sunflower](#) is a favorite of many winter songbirds, and it is full of energy to help them stay warm.
- If seed hulls are creating a mess around your feeders, try using [peanut pieces](#) or [sunflower chips](#).
- Attract finches and pine siskins with a [thistle seed feeder](#) or a [thistle sock/sack](#).
- Rotate houseplants every two weeks to promote even growth.
- Continue to keep houseplants on the drier side of [watering during winter](#). Overwatering “kills with kindness”.
- Houseplants are still resting/dormant. Refrain from fertilizing them until next month.
- Avoid transplanting houseplants until they start to perk-up and actively grow, usually next month.
- Mist houseplants regularly to raise humidity or place them on a humidity tray.
- Bring home some cyclamen & primrose for a burst of cheerful color indoors. Their garden guide is on our website, [here](#).
- Inspect houseplants regularly for unusual spots, webbing or scale. Look on both tops and bottoms of their leaves.
- Grow some [air purifying houseplants](#) such as snake plants, moth orchids, philodendron and spider plants.
- Celebrate Valentine’s Day with winter flowering houseplants such as gerbera daisies, calla lilies & flamingo flower.
- Start your garden wish list and purchase seeds. Now gather [seed starting](#) materials: seed starter soilless mix, sanitized pots/flats, tags, spray mister, plastic domes or wrap and seeds.
- Start cold crop seeds indoors mid-month! This includes lettuce, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale and onions.
- If interested in growing more herbs, start chives, cilantro, dill, fennel, sage and thyme from seed later in the month.
- Clean, sharpen and sanitize pruning tools now, (pruners, loppers, saws, etc.), so they are ready to use this month.
- Check out our pruning resources on our website, especially the [“Pruning Trees & Shrubs”](#) garden guide.
- Remove winter damaged, diseased or dead tree and shrub branches.
- Prune to shape the plant, produce better growth, and to develop a stronger structure. Remove weak, suckering, crossing growth including vertical growing water sprouts.
- Avoid pruning spring blooming shrubs until after they are finished blooming such as azaleas, rhododendrons, magnolias, lilacs, etc., unless they are damaged, diseased or dead.
- While pruning, cut some Forsythia branches to force into bloom indoors. Place them in a water filled vase in a cool room away from direct sunlight and heater vents. They will flower within two weeks!
- Apply [Wilt Stop®](#) to azaleas, rhododendrons, hollies and andromeda, on a mild day.
- While the soil is frozen, clean up the spent plants, dead foliage, branches, and debris in the garden beds and landscape. Toss them in the compost pile.
- Replant frost heaved perennials or place additional mulch around them to protect them from drying out.
- Ensure winter protection materials, (burlap and mulch), are still in place for hydrangeas and roses, restore if not.
- Inspect stored bulbs; throw away any that are rotting, mushy or dried up.
- [Overseed now](#) when there is no snow cover and no debris. The freezing and thawing will help the grass seed make contact with the soil germinating naturally when it warms in spring.
- Check on your lawn mower and other tools for any repairs. Make an appointment for servicing if needed.
- Sharpen lawn mower blades at home or at a local hardware store before the first mowing.
- It’s a great time to repair and clean any tools, trellises, benches or window boxes so they are ready in time for the growing season.
- [Gardening with Angelo radio show](#) will be returning next month with timely advice and answers to all your gardening questions.
- Please visit our [website](#) for garden inspiration, educational resources, online shopping and more!