



## February Garden Tips

- On nice weather days, go outside and check on your perennials. Temperature extremes of highs and lows tend to create frost heave and some shallow-rooted plants are slightly uprooted. Press them down firmly with your foot.
- Build a cold frame so you can move seedlings outdoors earlier (see plans on various internet sites).
- Some trees and shrubs can be pruned this month. Avoid pruning early flowering shrubs, oaks, and maples. Shrubs that flower in the spring should be pruned shortly after blooming is over.
- Force flowering of deciduous shrubs and trees in your home. Select branches that have plumb buds. Carefully split the cut end 1 to 4 inches. Place cut branches in a vase of warm water. Remove buds and twigs that will be under water. After the branches have been in the water for an hour, cut a half inch more off the cut end and put back into the water. Keep in a warm room (60-70 degrees) and change the water every few days. It will take 1 to 8 weeks to bloom. This can be done with Redbud, Quince, Flowering Dogwood, Witch Hazel, Hawthorn, Forsythia, Honeysuckle, Saucer Magnolia, Star Magnolia, Apple and Crabapple, Flowering Cherry, Flowering Almond, Flowering Plum, European Pussy Willow, Spirea, Lilac, and Viburnum.
- Trees which weren't fed last fall should be deep fed by punching a series of 1-2 inch holes two feet apart around the drip line and filled with an appropriate food. A mulch of well composted manure is also an excellent treat for your tree.
- Mid to late February is the time to fertilize shrubs and evergreens. Use an acid type rhododendron fertilizer to feed evergreens, conifers, broad leaf evergreens, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias.
- Use an all-purpose fertilizer to feed roses and other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use dry type fertilizers, be sure to water it in thoroughly (on a nice day).
- If you haven't yet applied your dormant fruit spray. **DO IT NOW!!**