



ELGIN NURSERY

8606 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85037

PHONE (623) 936-1100 / FAX (623) 936-7484

www.elginnursery.com



Desert Garden Calendar Monthly **DO** List

FEBRUARY

Even though it is starting to get a little warmer in the Valley, we can still have an occasional frost. Don't forget that weather forecasts are generally quoted from Sky Harbor International Airport, and many of the outlying parts of the Valley can be up to 10°F colder than that at night. Be prepared to cover frost-tender plants.

BUG TALK: Aphids may be present on many plants. The best control is natural predators, i.e. lacewings, ladybugs, and praying mantis. If these are not available, there are several insecticides that will do the job, both organically & non-organically.

Grass

Ryegrass should be watered about once or twice a week depending on the weather. Bermuda grass needs water about once a month. Bermuda will begin to turn green when nighttime lows reach about 65 degrees.

Trees/Shrubs

Fertilize fruit, nut and shade trees, shrubs and vines. Pecan trees and grape vines need a zinc rich fertilizer to help them produce their best. Now is the time for shaping citrus trees a little, if you must.

Normally there is no need to prune citrus like regular fruit trees. Try to let the citrus foliage grow to about knee high. The best fruit is produced on the lower two thirds of the tree so raising the skirt reduces the amount of fruit you will get. It will also reduce the amount of sun damage to the trunk.

Clean out dead wood. Remove any suckers growing from below the graft. Shape your ornamental shrubs so the new spring growth will fill in the bare branches and holes left from pruning.

While pruning frost damaged plants, wait and prune after new growth has started.

Flowers

Prepare flower beds for spring gardens. Freshen up flowerbeds by removing faded or spent blooms. Begin fertilizing established roses with granular fertilizers about the middle of the month. Clean out dead or diseased wood in roses.

Remove weak and crossing canes and old leaves to discourage insects and disease.

Vegetables

Plant seeds: beans, beets, bok choy, carrots, swiss chard, cucumbers, leaf lettuce, melons, mustard, onions, peas, potatoes, radishes, spinach, turnips, asparagus (roots or crowns).

Plant transplants: artichokes, asparagus, chard, kohlrabi, lettuce, onion, peppers and tomatoes.

If you set out transplants before mid-February protect them from the cold. Prepare your soil for a spring/summer garden. Organic matter, mulch, manure or compost is very important. Fertilize producing vegetable gardens.

Monthly **DON'T** list for February

1. When pruning never remove more than 1/4 of the total plant. Always use sharp, sterile, quality pruning tools and disinfect them between cuts to prevent the spread of disease.
2. Don't cheat on soil preparation for flowers and vegetables.
3. Don't fertilize dormant Bermuda grass until late April or May.
4. Don't plant roses with western exposure because of the afternoon summer heat.
5. Water both the day before and immediately after applying granular fertilizers.
6. Don't fertilize mature trees near the trunk. Fertilize the outer two thirds of the ground of the leaf canopy where the most active roots are.
7. Don't water grass at night when the temperatures are coolest as this fosters the growth of fungal diseases.
8. Don't mow when grass is wet. This also may result in fungal disease.
9. Don't delay on weed control. Handle weeds while they are young, tender, and their roots are manageable, or before they sprout.
10. Don't use a pre-emergent in an area where you are going to plant veggies and flowers from seed. It will prevent seeds from germination. It will not affect transplants.