



FEBRUARY

TO-DO LIST

- Remove weeds while they are clearly visible and check for slugs and snails at the same time.
- Start to clean up the perennial border and flower beds by cutting back old stems, and bagging and disposing of leaves and other winter debris.
- Cut back raspberry canes and other fruit bushes and plant new ones.
- Prune deciduous trees.
- Prune *Buddleia davidii* (butterfly bush) and other summer-flowering shrubs like *Fuchsia magellanica* (hardy fuchsia) as well as C-type clematis that bloom after June. (However, do not prune spring-flowering shrubs until after they have bloomed.)
- Prune back both *campsis* (trumpet vine) and the side-shoots of wisteria to within two or three buds.
- Sow hardy annuals (such as bachelor buttons, sweet peas and California poppies) outdoors.
- Start tender and half-hardy annuals such as cosmos, snapdragons, nicotiana, petunia, zinnia and salvia indoors.
- Plant peas and broad beans. Radishes can be sown under cover; celery can be started indoors.
- Weather permitting, plant trees, shrubs, lily bulbs, hellebores and bare-root roses.
- On a mild day, spray roses, fruit trees and some shrubs with dormant oil.
- Clean and sharpen tools. Get your lawn mower tuned up.
- Remove moss and thatch from lawns by raking.
- Lime lawns to counteract acidity and to achieve a desirable pH balance.
- Enjoy the exquisite white flowers of Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*) and the spidery yellow and copper-red flowers of witch hazel.
- Discover the delightful sweet fragrance of the white flowers of *sarcococca*.