

What to do in your garden

Happy February! It is midwinter and spring is just around the corner. There is great stuff to be done in and out of the garden, and the hard work you do now and in the next few weeks will allow you to sit back better in the summer.

You can still work on your apples, pears, and figs, but not any stone fruit, wait a few more months until Spring or leave it until the Autumn. Also needing pruning are Wisterias and Roses (both climbing and shrub). Reduce all of last year's growth to a good outward bud and consider how tall it's going to grow and reduce. With climbing, make sure the leaders are tied in and the existing wiring isn't strangling. On both growing forms, consider removing a third. This could be only one stem, but can help invigorate the plant. This can be done every three years, unless a vigorous plant, then more often.

Lifting the grass blades and disturbing and distributing worm casts will not only give you a healthy lawn, but also a healthy you. Rake the lawn into sections, down to as little as you like, to make it an easier challenge. Don't forget, if the temperature is above six degrees, grass will grow as well as the weeds, and lots will be coming through in the borders, as they can get going

really quickly. Before you know it, they'll have arrived and brought the whole family. If the soil isn't too wet, lightly disturb with a small border fork, or a small fork on a long pole (better for the back), and the weeds will come out easily.

Looking at your garden regularly allows you to spot when things are not right, as well as how wonderful it can look, even in the middle of winter. Making notes of what plants you have and where they are can be a really helpful piece of information. Take your time, as the plants will be back next year and the year after. Start with the biggest plants and evergreens. Then as plants start to come through, giving leaves, flowers and scent, plot it on your map and you will get a bigger picture. Taking photos is a great way to watch your garden grow over a year. Try to take from the same spot each time to see the changes.

Plants in flower now include Camelias, yellow winter Jasmine, Sarcococca (Christmas box), Hellebores, Daffodils, and under the trees and shrubs, Anemone blanda, snowdrops and yellow Aconites to mention only a few.

Take a look at your garden – are there areas that could be improved? We offer help with soils, trees and everything in-between.



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