


# What to do in your garden



Happy February! It is midwinter and Spring is just around the corner. There's 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 late Summer. Also needing pruning are your 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 climbers, decide if any strong last year's growth can be used as a new leader and tie down or if you already have a good amount, prune to the mainstem, leaving only a couple of this year's growth buds (these are previous areas where the leaves were) trim all flowering stems, other than mainstems to 2 – 3 growth buds. Prune out any dead, check the existing wiring isn't strangling and feed with bonemeal (organic) feed.

Wisterias also should be done sooner rather than later. Last year's growth, reduce to three buds, these will encourage flowering buds next year. Clear out any dead stems.

If it's warm (6 degrees+) and before cutting, rake and lift the grass blades, disturb 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, 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.

If you want to focus on your garden more, plot out your plants, you should have a foundation (evergreens, shrubs and trees) that can be seen in the Winter, with perennials coming through throughout the year, from Hellebores in the Winter to Agapanthus in the Summer, and late Winter and Spring bulbs to start the season off with a blast. Take pictures from different angles throughout the year to show you if plants need to be moved, split or just enjoyed. Plants in flower now include Camelias, Daphnes, yellow Winter Jasmine, Sarcococca (Christmas box), Hellebores, Daffodils, and under the trees and shrubs, Anemone blanda, Snowdrops and Crocuses to mention only a few.

Take a look at your garden – are there areas that could be improved? Or would you like specialist one to one consultations? We offer help with soils, shrubs, perennials, trees and everything in between whether with design, regular maintenance or one-off garden tidy.



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