



“From the Winter Potting Shed”

Riverview Garden Club - Helpful Hints

February, 2026

While our gardens are sleeping under a deep blanket of snow, there are many garden chores to get started indoors during February. This month it's best to focus on ordering seeds and bulbs, cleaning and sharpening tools, planning your spring/summer garden, pruning summer-flowering shrubs and caring for indoor plants.

Things to do this month...

Planning:

- Continue to use garden notes, photos and sketches to assess areas which need plants
- Finish ordering seeds and summer flowering bulbs
- Continue to order plants from nursery catalogues for later delivery

Chores and Maintenance:

- Check on winter plant protection; add mulch and adjust plant stakes as needed
- Continue to inspect ornamental trees and shrubs for scale insects
- Use wood ashes sparingly from fireplace as a good source of potash
- Avoid the use of salt to melt snow as it is toxic to most plants; use sawdust, sand or cat litter
- Check on stored dahlias, cannas and gladiolus bulbs for rotting and/ or drying out
- Keep bird feeders filled throughout the winter

Planting:

- Take cuttings of indoor plants now to use as bedding and container plants in late spring e.g. lantana, geranium, coleus, heliotrope, fuchsia, begonia etc.
- Sow seeds of annuals which require a long growing season e.g. lobelia, petunia, vinca, browallia, snapdragon, verbena, foxglove, larkspur, etc.

Pruning/ Fertilizing:

- Continue to prune away storm-damaged branches promptly. This prevents tearing of the bark
- Prune forsythia, pussywillow, quince etc. for forcing indoors
- Prune summer and fall-blooming shrubs

Indoors:

- Continue to provide houseplants with increased humidity; mist often or place the houseplant over a tray of moist pebbles
- On frigid nights, protect indoor plants from freezing; move them away from the glass or cover glass with cardboard
- Continue to clean leaves of large and smooth-leaved houseplants like dracaenas, philodendron, Ficus etc.
- Inspect houseplants for insect pests. Remove insects by hand and spray with insecticidal soap as necessary
- Clean clay pots by soaking overnight in a solution of 1 gallon water, 1 cup vinegar and 1 cup bleach

Resource: New York Botanical Garden, LuEsther Mertz Library Research Guides, Plant and Gardening Help, “Winter Gardening Chores-February”.



Will the groundhog find his way out of his burrow with all this snow??

Watch for his prediction on February 2nd!