

What to do in February

General Tasks

1. Before the busy period starts, make sure you have got all the things that you will need - labels, compost, seeds, watering can, general fertiliser and so on.
2. Check under any pots for any snails and slugs.
3. Wash those pots if you have not done it already.
4. Prepare the soil for the new season. Incorporating nutrients into the soil such as well rotted manure, compost or seaweed. Be prepared to hoe the weeds if you use home made compost.
Seaweed is an excellent feed but it is worth washing off the salt and sand if you are going to use it under cover. Dig it in or spread it over the surface.
5. Any early sowing will benefit from the protection of cloches to keep off the cold weather.
6. Any overwintering herbs such as parsley and mint can be kept fresh and be brought into earlier growth by covering with cloches. Top dress herbs with compost.

Fruits

1. This is the last chance to plant any bare rooted fruit trees and bushes. Prepare the soil first before planting.
2. Where possible, protect any young fruit or the blossoms of early flowering fruit trees e.g. peaches, nectarines, apricots, figs and etc with cloches. Remove the cloches during the day to allow the flowers to be pollinated.
3. It is a good time to move your currants and gooseberries in the early part of February. Prepare the soil well, add bone meal or shrub fertiliser. For best results, dress the rootball and the hole with mycorrhizal fungi. Water well.

Sow Now

1. Salad leaves
2. Onions sets
3. Parsnips
4. Broad beans
5. Summer cabbages
6. Summer lettuce
7. Early peas
8. Radishes
9. Turnips

Plant Now

1. Soft fruits bushes
2. Fruit trees
3. Bare-rooted hedging plants
4. Rhubarb
5. Jerusalem Artichokes
6. Onion sets
7. Shallot sets
8. Garlic

Harvest Now

Leeks, Winter and Savoy cabbages, Brussels sprouts, Broccoli, Celery, Celeriac, Leaf beet, Salsify, Scorzoneria, Spinach, Swedes, Turnips, Endive, Parsnips