

FEBRUARY

MAINTENANCE

- ⊙ Winter is a good time to aerate and dethatch your lawn.
- ⊙ Pick up camellia blossoms to control petal blight (avoid overhead watering).
- ⊙ Prune evergreen trees and shrubs. **Wait to prune spring bloomers until after they bloom.** This includes the evergreens, such as pink jasmine, Hardenbergia, Bank's rose, and pink breath of heaven, and deciduous shrubs such as Forsythia, Spiraea and common snowball.
- ⊙ Because of their fast-growing roots, Fuchsias grown in containers should be repotted yearly, usually by late February. Plant up into larger containers or root-prune. If you prune the roots, remove about one-quarter to one-third of the top of the plant and repot.
- ⊙ Divide canna bulbs and transplant or share with friends.
- ⊙ Perennials (such as Shasta Daisies, Agapanthus or Penstemon) which may have become crowded or which do not bloom as vigorously as in the past should be divided now. Dig the whole clump and gently separate into parts or hose off all the soil and divide. Amend soil one-quarter to one-third with Master Nursery Gold Rush or Bumper Crop and replant the divisions. Fertilize the new plantings after 2 to 3 months with Formula 49.
- ⊙ Mow low-growing groundcovers such as ivy, periwinkle and Peruvian verbena; then fertilize and water well.
- ⊙ Those slightly taller groundcovers; Lowfast Cotoneaster Ceanothus and Asian jasmine can also be trimmed back to about one foot tall.
- ⊙ Begin preparing new beds and rejuvenating old beds by working in organic matter.
- ⊙ Repot orchids every two or three years when they have finished blooming.

FERTILIZING

- ⊙ Feed fall-planted annuals and perennials.
- ⊙ Fertilize lawns late in the month.
- ⊙ Begin fertilizing containerized plants with an appropriate granular fertilizer at the end of the month. Continue monthly through October.

PEST/ WEED CONTROL

- ⊙ Control weeds early by picking them as soon as they sprout.
- ⊙ If weeds such as crabgrass (an annual) have been a serious problem in the past, use Master Nursery Pre-Emergent Crabgrass Control Plus with Lawn Food for lawns or use Concern Weed Prevention Plus for other areas, which also targets broadleaf weed seeds. Remember, these products do not control established weeds.
- ⊙ For oxalis in lawns, use Master Nursery Broadleaf 4-M, a liquid that can be sprayed over the entire lawn. Because oxalis is so tenacious, several applications will be needed. Turflon ester also works well on oxalis and will require fewer sprayings.
- ⊙ If you have had problems with Shot-Hole fungus on cherries or plums, spray before flowering with Micro-Cop or Liqui-Cop.

PLANTING

- ⊙ Calendulas, fairy primroses, pansies, snapdragons and violas will do well if planted now.
- ⊙ Callas and tuberous begonias are good bets for bulbs.
- ⊙ It is always exciting to explore new day lilies available for planting now.
- ⊙ If needed, spread seed or lay sod at the end of February. Timing planting with the beginning of spring will help seeds germinate faster and sod root in more quickly.
- ⊙ Plant dormant roots of asparagus, rhubarb, artichokes, horseradish and strawberries, plus potatoes, onions and garlic.
- ⊙ Transplant broccoli, cauliflower, leaf lettuce and chard.

SHOPPING

- ⊙ Watch for Rhododendrons at your favorite garden center in mid-February.
- ⊙ Start to look for the first shipments of Japanese maples toward the end of February. These trees are field-grown, then planted in containers and held for one additional year to root-in and be pruned to shape.