

GARDENHINTS

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- Shrubs, roses and deciduous trees can be transplanted as long as soil is workable and the ground is not waterlogged. Use **GARDENWORKS™** 2-14-0 Bone Meal when planting.
- Use lime sulphur and dormant oil on all your fruit trees and roses to control overwintering insect pests and diseases. Be sure to do it on a mild, windless day.
- Continue to monitor garden and flower beds for slugs. Apply a pet and environment friendly slug control product as required.
- Tidy up the garden. Pick up branches brought down by snow or winds. Remove leaf litter under rhododendrons.
- Fill spaces in garden beds or containers with winter bloomers such as heathers, hellebores, primulas and pansies.
- Prune hydrangeas in February. Remove dead flower heads and shorten stems to a pair of healthy buds.
- Check trees and shrubs. Prune out dead, diseased or damaged branches. Disinfect pruners between cuts to avoid spreading disease. Wait for forsythia to bloom before pruning roses.
- Cut evergreen ferns as low as possible in early February before new growth emerges.
- Cut dying leaves from hellebores to expose the emerging flower buds.
- Apply dolomite lime to lawns to prevent winter moss growth, then rake the lawn vigorously on a sunny February day to remove any remaining moss and thatch.
- Turn the compost pile.
- Check stakes and ties to ensure plants are held firmly.
- Garlic and broad beans can be planted outdoors in mid-February. Peas & radish can go in towards the end of the month.
- Lift, divide and replant late blooming perennials in February.
- Sow sweet peas, bachelor buttons & California poppies in February where they are to bloom.
- Pull weeds before they become hidden by perennials or have a chance to spread or reseed.

INDOOR ACTIVITIES

- Visit our seed department and start planning your vegetable and flower gardens. Pick up a free West Coast Seed catalogue from any **GARDENWORKS™** location.
- Consult gardening books and magazines for new planting ideas for spring. Visit one of our stores to see our full list of titles.
- Start your garden journal. Take note what you plant, sow and harvest. Keep a detailed list of flowering times for future reference.
- Contact our **GARDENWORKS™** Landscape Design Department for information and advice on a quick design solution, or a for whole new look for your garden this year (and for years to come).
- Start amaryllis bulbs inside in January for dashing February colour.
- Begin feeding flowering houseplants in February with **GARDENWORKS™** 20-20-20. Start fertilizing your foliage plants once spring growth begins.
- Start geranium cuttings.
- Guard against insect infestation by cleaning the dust off indoor plants, and misting where appropriate.
- Check your stored bulbs and tubers periodically throughout winter to prevent rot/fungus.
- Plant begonia tubers indoors late in January.
- Start artichoke, endive, onions and some lettuce varieties in January.
- Tune up your lawnmower and sharpen your tools before the rush.
- Add some life and colour in your home with fresh tropical foliage and flowering plants.

