

Garden To Do List For February 2014

by Teresa Spence, UCCE Master Gardener of Calaveras County

If summer bloomers like daylilies, yarrow and coreopsis have become crowded, dig them up, divide them, and replant divisions in other areas of your garden.

Prune roses: cut out old and dead wood and remove crossing branches. Hybrid teas and repeat blooming, bush type roses can be trimmed back to 18 to 24 inches if you want to control the size of the rose. Clean up all debris around the plants which may harbor pests and diseases.

Wait to prune spring flowering shrubs like lilacs and quince, or ornamental trees like cherries and flowering plums, until after they have bloomed. Bring a few branches indoors just before buds open for a stunning display.

If you want to grow tomatoes, peppers and eggplants from seed, it is time to purchase the seeds and to start planting them in pots according to the instructions on the packages. If you start planting the seeds by the end of the month, the plants should be ready to transplant into your garden by the end of April to mid May.

There is still time for one more application of dormant spray for deciduous fruit trees. Do this before the buds swell on the branches.

If you are growing strawberries and asparagus, this is an ideal time to fertilize them so they can produce a bountiful harvest later in the year.

Cut back last years' growth of ornamental grasses as soon as you see new growth emerging.

<http://ucanr.org/sites/CalaverasCountyMasterGardeners/>

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