

the

Bamboo Shoot

February 2011

THIS MONTH *in your garden*

February Gardening Tips - Maintenance & Clean Up

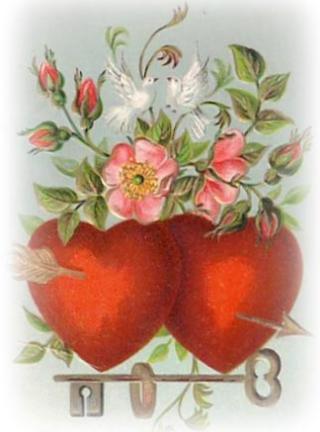
- Prune dormant trees and shrubs. Prune off winter damage and dead wood.
- Good time to plant fruit trees and deciduous shrubs
- Make a cold frame or hotbed to start early vegetables or flowers.
- Fertilize rhubarb with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Prune fruit trees, cane berries and blueberries.
- Plant windowsill container gardens of carrots, lettuce, or parsley.
- Where soil is dry enough and workable, plant garden peas and sweet peas.
- Add new roses that are disease resistant.
- Use delayed-dormant sprays of lime sulfur for fruit and deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control of diseases such as apple anthracnose, bacterial canker of stone fruit and eastern filbert blight. Sterilize tools before each new cut.
- Control moles and gophers with traps.
- Check lawns for European crane fly and treat lawns if needed.

February

a month of static
and change...

The winter seems to set down upon us yet we know that spring is coming around the bend. February comes from the Latin word februum, which means purification. Sometimes in the silence of the soft rains, if you go beyond the feeling of "wet", you can feel the drops of rain run in rivulets down your face, cleansing your skin of the winter indoors shine. Another historical name for February is the Anglo-Saxon term "Solmonath", meaning "mud month" --perhaps we should change ours to "sand month" especially after a winter's romp on the beach.

February is the National Month for bird feeding; the monthly flower is the viola and the primrose. I especially love primroses this time of year; they get hailed on, they rebloom. They get flooded, they rebloom. They shrivel up into nothing during drought but manage to come back next spring with their light fragrance and rosette of green leaves. Another wonderful early spring plant is blooming at the nursery, camellia sasanqua "Mine-No-Yuki" displaying soft, white, water lily shaped blossoms amidst dark green leaves.



Camellias are great for those places in your yard where you need a shrub that is evergreen and grows from 5-8 feet tall.

The Garden Center is bursting with new deliveries. We've added Territorial Seeds to our seed racks; come check out our new line of organic seeds. We're also carrying a great selection of seeds for our coastal gardens in our short summer climate. Renee's seeds have some wonderful new fragrances of sweet peas; easy to sow and care for, sweet peas are a wonderful addition to a sunny place in your yard. Check out our line of organic fertilizers and soil amendments: Whitney Farms, Foxfarm and Down to Earth products are great for adding nutrients to your plantings. We look forward to seeing you soon!

 lisa

NEWS *from the* NURSERY



Antelmo Gallo-Camacho has been promoted to Supervisor of the Landscape Division at Laurel Bay Gardens. He has worked in landscaping for many years and has worked at Laurel Bay for over five years. Antelmo has had extensive training and experience in installing irrigation systems and landscape designs. His attention to detail shows with the quality of his work done on the job sites.

NEW ARRIVALS:

LATE JANUARY: Rhododendrons from A to Z, over 80 new varieties including many species varieties.

Weeks Roses, including blanket roses and rugosas

Seeds: Renee's and Territorial Racks are in. Let's get those sprouts popping!

EARLY FEBRUARY: Seed Potatoes, Spring Bulbs (Dahlias, Lillies, Callas)

MID FEBRUARY: Bare root berries, blueberries, asparagus, strawberries.

EARLY MARCH: Vines, Flowers, and Sunshine!!!

New Monthly Feature! Bamboo articles written by our very own bamboo expert, Dave Sedlacek...



Bamboo Dave's Corner

Introducing our newest staff member's column, Bamboo Dave's Corner! *Fargesia murielae* also known as Umbrella Bamboo is one of the most graceful varieties of *fargesia* bamboos. This clumping bamboo (it does not send out runners), reaches about ten to fourteen feet in height. It has small one half inch wide canes that weep gracefully in the landscape. Considered by Ernest "China" Wilson, who introduced it into cultivation in 1910, to be one of the most beautiful of all bamboos, with soft, cascading canopy of lustrous evergreen foliage. The new shoots are light blue with tan culm sheaths, aging to a yellowish-green. Like all other *Fargesias*, it does not have running rhizomes and needs no containment to prevent spread. It looks best when planted in an area that gets afternoon shade or dappled sunlight throughout the day. It will retain its pastel green foliage throughout the winter, though it usually sheds a few leaves in late fall. When planting bamboo, add soil and compost to help the bamboo retain moisture and add nutrients.





This just in... Weeks Roses in redi-to-plant containers. New this year...

Dick Clark
2011 AARS Winner
Grandiflora - Cream & Cherry Blushed Burgundy

No two flowers are exactly alike on this rose. Black-red buds spiral open to show off swirls of cream, edged & washed with vibrant cherry pink. These classically-formed flowers are large, double flowers with a moderate cinnamon spice fragrance. When the sun strikes the petals, they begin to blush burgundy, finishing as a deep dark red. Put all this color against super-shiny-green foliage with nice long cutting stems and you've got a killer combo. This rose is easy to grow with a rounded bush shape & is very vigorous.

ROSES

Roses

ROSES

Hardy cyclamens are showy small autumn flowering hardy type of Cyclamen. While not as common as the florist cyclamen, the small flowers provide an abundance of color in the autumn and spring gardens in our area. The delicate two-toned mottled leaves are eye catching during the spring, summer and fall growing seasons.

Cyclamens offer a spot of color at a time when there is not much flowering in the garden. The unusual shooting-star-like flowers begin appearing during the autumn months of September, October and November. Some species flower into the months of January and February.

Hardy cyclamen need to be planted in a spot where they are protected from hot sun and severe weather exposure. An ideal spot is to plant them under trees or high branched shrubs, or on the east side of the house. Since they are low growing, place them near the front edge of your flower beds, where they can best be seen. These are great plants for a rock garden.

Be sure to take time to properly prepare the planting soil, as hardy cyclamen need good drainage and lots of humus mixed with existing soils. Work planting compost or processed manure into the planting soil. Mix thoroughly with the existing soil. Place small plants about 4 to 6 inches apart for best display. Tubers can be dug and divided about every four to six years if desired. The best time to plant or transplant is during their dormant season, or with the autumn or winter flowering varieties, after they have finished flowering.

If your cyclamen flowers go to seed, they can be started by sowing the seed in a regular houseplant potting mix or a combination of 50% sand and 50% peat moss. Keep them in a place where temperatures range between 55 and 65 degrees. Barely cover the seeds with the soil or sand mix.



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When should I start seeds indoors?

That depends on the type of seed and the last expected frost date for your area. Florence generally begins around May 10th. Your seed package should tell you how many weeks ahead you should start the seeds. Count back from the last expected frost date for each type of seed you are planting and you'll have a planting schedule!



**LAUREL BAY
GARDENS**

This newsletter is available via email and at the nursery. If you would like to receive a copy of this publication in electronic form send request to: lbgoffice@presys.com

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