AAA LANDSCAPE
AN UNDERWOOD BROTHERS CO.
Est. 1975

We Beautify the World

FEBRUARY

MONTHLY TO-DO LIST

GRASS

- Ryegrass should be watered about once or twice a week depending on the weather. Bermuda grass needs water about once a month.
- Bermuda will begin to turn green when nighttime lows reach about 65 degrees.

FLOWERS

- Freshen up flowerbeds by removing faded or spent blooms.
- Bare-root roses should be in the ground this month, the earlier the better.
- Begin fertilizing established roses with granular fertilizers about the middle of the month.
- Clean out dead or diseased wood in roses.
- Remove weak and crossing canes and old leaves to discourage insects and disease.

TREES & SHRUBS

- Fertilize fruit, nut and shade trees, shrubs and vines.
- Pecan trees and grape vines need a zinc rich fertilizer to help them produce their best.
- Now is the time for shaping citrus trees a little, if you must. Normally there is no need to prune citrus like regular fruit trees. Try to let the citrus foliage grow to about knee high.
- The best fruit is produced on the lower two thirds of the tree so raising the skirt reduces the amount of the fruit you will get.
- Clean out dead wood.
- Remove any suckers growing from below the graft.
- Shape your ornamental shrubs so the new spring growth will fill in the bare branches and holes left from pruning.
- While pruning frost damaged plants, wait and prune after new growth has started.

VEGETABLES

- PLANT SEEDS: beans, beets, bok choy, carrots, swiss chard, cucumbers, leaf lettuce, melons, mustard, onions, peas, potatoes, radishes, spinach, , sunflowers, turnips, watermelons, Martha Washington asparagus (roots or crowns).
- PLANT TRANSPLANTS: artichokes, asparagus, chard, kohlrabi, lettuce, onion, peppers and tomatoes.
- If you set out transplants before mid-February protect them from the cold.
- Prepare your soil for a spring/summer garden. Organic matter, mulch, manure or compost is very important.
- Fertilize producing vegetable gardens.
- Corn may be seeded after mid-February. Plant short day varieties (less than 70 days).

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MONTHLY TO-DO LIST

Even though it is starting to get a little warmer in the Valley, we can still have an occasional frost. Don't forget that weather forecasts are generally quoted from Sky Harbor International Airport, and many of the outlying parts of the Valley can be up to 10°F colder than that at night. Be prepared to cover frost-tender plants.

BUG TALK:
Aphids may be present on many plants. The best control is natural predators, such as lacewings, and praying mantis. Acquaint yourself with these insects, and if present do not use insecticides. Hosing the aphids off with a forceful spray of water is helpful in gaining control. A couple of drops of dish soap in a spay bottle of water can also be very effective.

Your Desert Garden

Monthly DON'T List for February

- When pruning, never remove more than ¼ of the total plant unless you are doing renovation pruning. Always use sharp, quality pruning tools. Use hand pruners for cuts up to ½", loppers for cuts up to ¾" and saws for cuts over ¾"
- Don't cheat on soil preparation for flowers and vegetables. Bone meal and blood meal are great organic amendments to add to the soil. Be sure to include a granular fertilizer that contains at least 20% phosphorus to help with root establishment.
- Don't fertilize dormant Bermuda grass until late April or May.
- Don't plant roses with western exposure because of the afternoon summer heat.
- Too much fertilizer can cause salt burn and too little can cause nutrient deficiency problems. Water both the day before and immediately after applying granular fertilizers.
- Don't fertilize mature trees near the trunk. Fertilize the outer two thirds of the ground of the leaf canopy where the most active roots are.
- Don't water grass at night when the temperatures are coolest as this fosters the growth of fungal diseases.
- Don't mow when grass is wet. Don't irrigate on mow day or the day before.
- Don't delay on weed control. Spray weeds while they are young, tender, and easy to kill.
- Don't use a pre-emergent in an area where you are going to plant veggies and flowers from seed. It will prevent seeds from germination. It will not affect transplants.

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