

Gardening Tips From Our Members

Tips For Spring

Transplant azaleas, but other field-grown woody species should no longer be moved this spring. Be certain that flowering shrubs do not want for water during periods of drought. Graft camellias, spray camellias for spider mites. Cover annuals on nights when freezing weather is forecast. Aid winter grass to carry well into the late spring by fertilizing and mowing frequently. During the last week, sow seeds of tender summer annuals. Prune all broad leaved evergreen shrubs for size and shape.

Seeds to plant: ageratum, sweet alyssum, China-aster, celosia, chrysanthemum, early cosmos, dianthus, marigold, nasturtium, phlox, poppy, rudbeckia, and verbena.

Bulbs to Plant: agapanthus, alstroemeria, amaryllis, calla, crinum, dahlia, freesia, gladiolus, gloriosa, hymenocallis (daylily).

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In Florida, springtime weather begins to arrive by the end of the month. Even in colder locations, the average last-frost dates occur during the latter part of the month. February is one of the best gardening times of the year because the cool-season plantings are finished and you can begin to add warm-season color. It is one of the few times you might have cool-season plants like pansies, snapdragons, and dianthus growing alongside warm-season plants like marigolds, verbena and salvia. Here are a few things you need to this month to prepare for new plantings:

- Decide where you need new flower beds or which present gardens you want to replace.
- Have the soil pH tested, and adjust with lime or soil sulfur if needed.
- Select flowers according to light level and select flowers that are known to grow in your area.
- Use herbs and vegetables in your flower garden!

From:

MONTH BY MONTH GARDENING IN FLORIDA by Tom MacCubbin