



Master Gardener Tips

February

- Seeds are beginning to show up in the stores. At Walmart they are way back in the corner at the far back from the garden register, almost hiding.
- You can cut early flowering shrubs to force to flower indoors now; such as forsythia.
- Begin pruning rose bushes this month. Prune to about 18 inches from the ground. I also prune those rugged rugosas. It helps them get thicker.
- Take soil samples to the Clemson Extension to have it tested. The local office is out hwy #701 just before the DMV office. It is several miles out.
- Clean up flower and garden beds, sharpen the edges, and remove dead branches, twigs, pine cones and winter weeds.
- If your grass is a cool season grass, fertilize this month.
- Spot treat broadleaf weeds, and apply pre-emergent herbicide to control crabgrass.
- Vegetable seeds can be sown now: peas, Chinese cabbage, snow peas, onions, broccoli, carrots, lettuce and white potatoes.
- Be cautioned about using leftover seeds from last year. Many will not sprout after that period of time. To test them, put a few seeds on a damp paper towel, roll it up and store in a warm place. After a week or so, check to see what percent have sprouted. That may well be the amount that will sprout in the garden. For instance, if half (50%) sprout, half will grow in the garden.
- If you have fruit trees, prune them this month.
- When you prune, try to choose a spot just above a bud. Choose a bud that is facing outward.
- Herbs, such as Rosemary, sage, thyme, parsley and marjoram need extra lime. Fertilize them lightly.
- Prune back all ornamental grasses before the new growth begins. If you cut off new growth, you will have to look at the scalped section all summer.
- Herbs are a great joy to have fresh, however, some are very quick to out grow their space, and mint is one of these. Plant mint in a container and you will be much happier with it. Also fennel and dill will reseed and reseed and reseed until every thing is dill and/or fennel.

