

Jobs for the Month – February

- In mid-February, sow tomato and cucumber seeds for plants to be grown in the greenhouse; sow in a heated propagator or warm windowsill and grow on at a slightly lower temperature;
- Autumn fruiting raspberries can be pruned now; cut the fruited shoots right down to ground level, remove any weeds and give the canes a good mulch covering;
- Apply a general purpose fertiliser such as Growmore to tree, bush and cane fruit and apply a thick mulch around the stems;
- In late February, cut back ornamental grasses to allow the fresh leaves to grow on unimpeded
- Topdress beds and borders with Growmore or Blood, Fish & Bone fertiliser in late February to promote growth for the coming season
- Start dahlia tubers in pots into growth by watering more frequently and applying a weak liquid fertiliser weekly;
- Begonia and gloxinia tubers can be potted up now
- Now is the time to prune Buddleia shrubs hard back to promote good strong growth for flowering later in the year;
- Late-summer and autumn flowering clematis (Group 3) can be pruned now
- Prune Mahonia bushes back after flowering to promote branching and to keep the shrubs compact;
- Prune back shrubs that are grown for their coloured winter stems such as dogwoods and willows; most of these shrubs can be cut hard back to ensure a good display of young colourful stems next winter;
- Prune the winter flowering jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) after flowering; cut flowered stems back to a couple of buds from the main stem and remove any brown dead material to enhance the appearance of the shrub;
- Hostas can be divided now when the new growth is just starting to come through but before the leaves emerge fully.