



February Tips

By Kathie Carter
Cooperative Extension/ Botany Plant Sciences Department
University California Riverside

It is time to start a new garden in southern California. The weather has become spring-like before its time. Start looking at gardening catalogs and store shelves to get an idea of what you want to plant this month. Start working manure, compost, or other organic amendments into the soil to improve soil structure and boost the nutrients for the new plantings. You can start tomato seeds indoors, or you can purchase seedlings at your local garden center. However, it is usually too cool to transplant tomatoes outside this month.

If you plan ahead you can plant just the right amount of flowers and vegetables that you have time and space to devote to the garden. It is hard not to overplant with the garden coming out of winter.

Try one new variety of your favorite flower or vegetable, it may become a family favorite. Otherwise, purchase varieties that are known to do well in your area.

Fruits and Vegetables

You can sow beets, caraway, carrots, celery, chard chervil, collards, cilantro, dill, endive, fennel, garlic, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuces, mustards, green onions, bulb onion sets, parsley, peas, white potatoes, radishes, shallots, spinaches, and turnips. You can plant seeds of warmer crops indoors such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants until they get big enough to plant into the garden when the weather warms up a bit more.

Bare-root Plants

This is the last month to plant bare-root fruit and nut trees, roses, berries, or grapes. It the best time to plant strawberries. You want to plant these before they develop leafy shoots or put out blossoms in the warm weather. A good bare-root fruit tree to plant is a [low-chill apple](#). Fertilize deciduous fruit trees about three weeks before they bloom.

Ornamentals

Sow ageratums, alyssum, asters, baby's-breath, bachelor's buttons, calendulas, campanulas, candytuft, carnations, clarkias, coreopsis, columbines, coralbells, cosmos, African daisies, Shasta daisies, delphiniums, dianthus, for get me nots, foxgloves, hollyhocks, impatiens, larkspur, linaria, lobelia, lunaria, lupines, marigolds, morning glories, nasturtiums, nemesia, pansies, petunias, phlox, California and Shirley poppies, salvia, scabiosa, snapdragons, stocks, strawflowers, sweet peas, sweet Williams, verbena, violas, and wildflowers.

Plant bulbs for spring and early summer blooms. For continuous spring bloom, plant a selection of anemones, gladiolus, ranunculus, and tigridias every two weeks thru March. The flowers will keep blooming one after the other.

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