

February Gardening Tips



Don't be tempted by all the gardening catalogs that are arriving in the mail. It's still too early to start them inside - unless you are lucky enough to have a greenhouse - your seedlings will get too leggy before its warm enough to put them outside.

If we get a break in the weather, February is a good time to cut back your ornamental grasses (including loriope). This helps to shape the grasses and encourage new growth in the spring.



It is also a good time to tackle your rose bushes. Cut out the deadwood, and about 18" is a good length for the remaining branches. Perhaps trim them back to 3 main trunks - for mature bushes.



Remember the Christmas Cactus I told you to leave alone? Next week is the time to start watering them bi-weekly with a 20-20-20 fertilizer.

Valentine's Day roses? To make them last longer, first make sure your vase is clean. Fill it with lukewarm water and use the packet of preservative that came with them. Remove any leaves that will be under water. Hold the stems under warm running water and make a new cut at an angle. Keep them in a cool area, out of the direct sunlight.