

February Garden Checklist

Angelina County, Texas

- Complete the bare-root planting of woody landscape plants this month. Container and ball-and-burlapped plants are in good supply and can be set out most any time. Winter and early spring planting provides an opportunity for good establishment before hot weather comes.
- Don't fertilize newly set out trees or shrubs until after they have started to grow, and then only very lightly, the first year.
- When buying plants, the biggest is not always the best, especially with bare-rooted plants. The medium to small sized trees (4 to 6 feet) usually become established faster and will become effective in the landscape more quickly than the large sizes.
- Prune roses during February in Angelina County. Use good shears that will make clean cuts. Remove dead, dying, and weak canes. Leave four to eight healthy canes and remove approximately one-half of the top growth along the height of the plant.
- Now is an excellent time to select and plant container-grown roses to fill in bare spots in your rose garden.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs such as quince, azalea, forsythia and spirea after they finish blooming.
- When pruning shrubs, follow these steps: (1) prune out any dead or damaged branches first; (2) thin out by removing about one-third of the canes or stems at ground level, removing the oldest canes only; (3) shape the rest of the plant but do not cut everything back to the same height.
- Fertilize pansies once again for continued flowering. Don't forget to water when needed.
- A potted plant, tree, shrub, or cut flowers make excellent Valentine gifts for loved ones and shut-ins.

