

Gardener's Corner

February 2025

February is a conundrum: one day is warm; the next is cold. As a result, my daffodils and tulips, including those newly planted ones from the *Keudenhof Gardens* in the Netherlands, are peeking through the earth, undecided what to do. My hope is that they can survive the ups and downs of the weather.

In February, the **Missouri Botanical Garden** suggests that for the best blooms, now is the time to sow the following seeds outdoors: larkspur, sweet peas, poppies and snapdragons. Check for signs of frost heaving in the soil around perennials. If you notice damage, the plants can be carefully pressed back down into the soil to ensure any exposed roots are covered. In late February or early March, liriopse should be cut back prior to growth starting.

Walking on lawns should be kept minimal if grass is wet or frozen. Dormant oil sprays can be applied to trees and shrubs that are infected with insects such as aphids, scale, and mites that have caused problems in the past. Remember to follow application directions.

Some summer flowering shrubs such as *Hydrangea paniculata*, *Lagerstroemia indica*, *Hibiscus syriacus*, and *Buddleja davidii*) can be pruned from late February through early March. Wait to prune spring flowering shrubs until blooms are finished. Spring blooming shrubs include *Forsythia* spp., *Syringa* spp., *Viburnum* spp., and *Hydrangea macrophylla*.

It is now time for one of my favorite flowers, Hellebores, to start emerging. The new leaves of these beautiful plants begin to peek through in late January/early February. Soon blossoms will start appearing. In addition to their beautiful flowers, these plants are hardy in Zones 4-9, they like partial shade (good to grow under trees) and are deer resistant. You can find more information about them from **The Spruce** <https://www.thespruce.com/growing-hellebores-in-the-garden-1402846> and from **Monrovia** <https://www.monrovia.com/be-inspired/hellebores-spring-happy-harbingers.html>

Garden Design can help you identify pests you may have encountered while growing plants indoors this winter. Through links in the article *7 Houseplant Pests: How to Identify & Treat Them*, you can find out how to eradicate these pests. The information is at:

https://www.gardendesign.com/houseplants/pests.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Houseplant-Pests-1-9-25

Videos to watch this month:

There is a **Grow Native! Webinar** entitled *In Bloom: Successional Native Plantings for Continuous Blooms* with Cydney Ross you can watch. Find it at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWbs1EiLKil&t=1s>

The video, *Hellebores: Complete Growing Guide* which contains some good information can be found here: <https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-fc-3971&ei=UTF-8&hsimp=yhs-3971&hspart=fc¶m1=7¶m2=eJwtsluwyAYhF%2BFYyIB%2FllsTLi5dh6g6qmlg%2BtQBxkv8iJXffqKKprLaOYbafwrsMa91wxAKC0tdpM1DgC4xS5VFrVOGqe1ttiFxRoncsqkplryFPV%2BtsYdm8XuakK1x4%2FwbYmyznAK6nGF6zOeGph0xoGDQGaZCGvRTyCtqlYX6038NYc9yoago0GV47mPEKlbBo9>

[53w3xF3XOdR58xwSkkoa39btfwmqRTW3gdPTa%2F%2FvumEWXFFJCq1g1hrLmTqqpq0jAl7qV6E1CKxHcJ5sAlYZww%2FQFwY%2FomFAWdf%2F4By6VRow%3D%3D&p=growing+hellebores&type=f&rlz=1C1AC5AE6A96A2_s69_g_e_d_n0002_c999#id=2&vid=25a04f2ec3dce540852e078d60e42b99&action=view](https://www.google.com/search?q=53w3xF3XOdR58xwSkkoa39btfwmqRTW3gdPTa%2F%2FvumEWXFFJCq1g1hrLmTqqpq0jAl7qV6E1CKxHcJ5sAlYZww%2FQFwY%2FomFAWdf%2F4By6VRow%3D%3D&p=growing+hellebores&type=f&rlz=1C1AC5AE6A96A2_s69_g_e_d_n0002_c999#id=2&vid=25a04f2ec3dce540852e078d60e42b99&action=view)