

Gardener's Corner February, 2026

This freezing weather is making me long for a nice day working in the garden. Although we have a good month before it happens, spring can't come too soon!

According to **Missouri Botanical Garden** *Tips and Tasks*, February is when you can start sowing some flower seeds. Those suggested are larkspur, sweet peas, poppies and snapdragons all of which need, for the best blossoms, to sprout and begin their growth before warm weather gets here.

Look for signs of frost heaving in the soil surrounding perennials. Plants can be lightly tamped back into the soil to cover any exposed roots. Late February or early March is also the time to cut back liriop.

This information is a little late but still may be useful to you. The **University of Illinois Extension** has a good article on using salt to de-ice. Entitled *Deicing salt and plants: How to prevent damage to your landscape*, the article has some good tips and can be found here:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/good-growing/2025-12-05-deicing-salt-and-plants-how-prevent-damage-your-landscape>.

I haven't checked my hellebore plants (often called Lenten roses) yet, but now is the time to start looking for their buds to poke through the ground and snow. Despite their toxicity, they are one of my favorite flowers and I have many colors in my garden. Hellebores usually start blooming toward the end of February and beginning of March. Once the snow melts, it will be time to get out in the garden and start looking for the blossoms. More on growing hellebores can be found in this article in **Southern Living**, *How to grow and care for Lenten roses & other hellebores*,
<https://www.southernliving.com/garden/flowers/lenten-rose>

Inspecting your indoor plants for pests is important during the winter. If you find them, how can you identify and treat them? A timely article from **Garden Design** may be helpful in accomplishing this and successfully ridding your indoor plants of these pesky creatures. The article, *7 Houseplant Pests: How to Identify & Treat*, can be found at the following website:

https://www.gardendesign.com/houseplants/pests.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Houseplant-Pests-1-29-26