



February – Tips and Tasks

Top Priorities

- **Finish seed orders**
 - If you haven't finished ordering your seeds, February is a great time to do so. Select cultivars that are resistant to the disease that you have been having a problem within your garden.
- **Examine Equipment**
 - Make sure your equipment is ready for the spring. Service your lawnmower. Clean and sharpen your clippers. Inspect tillers and sprayers.
- **Cold weather crops**
 - Start seedlings of cold season crops and hardy herbs such as radish, asparagus and early leafy greens.
- **Plant seeds**
 - Some seeds take 10–12 weeks to germinate before our average first frost date like Sweet peas, Geraniums and Impatiens. Now is a great time to get them started indoors.

Next Steps

- **Preparing for planting**
 - If your soils is especially poor, consider creating a raised bed or planting in grow bags or other containers.
- **Trees and shrubs**
 - Examine the base of trees and shrubs or damage from animals like voles and deer. Repair or remove any damage found.
- **Inspect**
 - Look for spotted lanternfly egg masses and remove them. The entire egg mass is about 1.5 inches long and looks similar to a smudge of clay. Egg masses can be smashed with a stick, hand, or scraper card. Just make sure to apply firm pressure as you scrape so that individual eggs burst open. Please be safe while scraping and do not undertake dangerous climbing to reach them. Picture courtesy of Virginia Department of Forestry.



