



February Garden Checklist (Zone 5b)

Tool Maintenance

- 1 Sharpen pruners and shears
- 2 Oil wooden handles
- 3 Clean blades to prevent disease
- 4 Replace broken tools

Cut Back Perennials

- 1 Cut dead growth to ground level
- 2 Leave debris as natural mulch
- 3 Avoid heavy raking

Inspect Winter Damage

- 1 Check for split bark
- 2 Look for frost heave
- 3 Remove broken branches
- 4 Check for animal damage
- 5 Press lifted plants back into soil

Planning

- 1 Sketch garden beds
- 2 Identify gaps and problem areas
- 3 Decide what to remove
- 4 Order seeds

Cut Back Grasses

- 1 Trim grasses to 4–8 inches above crown
- 2 Cut before new growth appears

Prune Vines

- 1 Cut back to live wood
- 2 Leave some height for faster regrowth

Weeding

- 1 Remove visible weeds like Creeping Charlie
- 2 Focus on early prevention

What NOT to Do

- 1 Do not fertilize
- 2 Do not plant tender perennials
- 3 Do not disturb frozen soil
- 4 Do not trust early warm spells