

## GARDENING NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

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February is the month when you start to look for signs that winter is turning the corner. Spring bulbs start to point their noses up and the sun is warming.

Now is the time to put cloches onto ready prepared land for early sowings, they should be on the land for 2 weeks prior to sowing. Early Carrots( Nantes ), early peas ( Feltham First ), and Broad Beans ( Aquadulce) can all be sown under cloches.

February is a good time to start in the green house, which still requires heating. Early cabbage ( Hispus or Greyhound ), early Cauliflowers and Sprouts can be sown inside, along with early Tomatoes and lettuce for cloche work.

Dahlias can be boxed up ready for cuttings to be taken under heat, as can chrysanthemums cuttings be taken in the same way. Spray peaches with copper fungicide to help combat peach leaf curl.

Trenches for sweet peas and runner beans can be made during this month. Part fill the trench with farm yard manure or compost, then finish filling the trench with soil and fork in bone meal at the rate of 2 Ounces per square yard.

Check seed potatoes for damage such as from frost. Shallots can now be sown by planting in a 1" deep trench and covering over with soil to stop birds pulling them out.

If you have acquired a new garden it is a good idea to have the soil tested. There are firms that will do this for you, and advise as to the best treatments needed to create suitable conditions for your requirements.

Beware the busy time is just ahead ! .