



**DR. R.E. MOON +  
ASSOCIATES**  
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## **Gardening by the Moon**

February 2023 Newsletter



The only good ice in Texas is a cup of iced tea. And once again, we are reminded that winter isn't over as we begin to thaw. But spring will be here soon, so remain diligent with this crazy Texas weather and take action to keep your landscape looking good!

### **February 2023 Landscaping Planner**

| Sunday   | Monday | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday | Friday | Saturday   |
|--|--------|--|--|----------|--------|--|
|  |        |  | 01<br>Set irrigation timer to run once every 2-weeks, however if it has been wet leave the controller off. | 02       | 03     | 04<br>Reminder: cut dead tissue out of trees & plants* |
| 05<br>Mow turf short and dethatch (if needed)<br>*see Give your Turf a Haircut below | 06     | 07   | 08   | 09       | 10     | 11<br>Aerate turf                                      |
| 12   | 13     | 14<br>VALENTINE'S DAY-<br>gift a beautiful flower bouquet to your loved ones | 15   | 16       | 17     | 18<br>Apply pre-emergent                               |
| 19   | 20     | 21   | 22   | 23       | 24     | 25<br>Fertilize trees                                  |
| 26   | 27     | 28<br>LOOK AHEAD-<br>Begin planning spring color                             |  |          |        |  |

| Date      | Tasks  |
|-----------|--|
| Feb. 1st  | Set irrigation timer to run once every two weeks this month. However, with all the rain and freezing temperatures, you want to leave the controller off during these times.  |
| Feb. 4th  | Refer to January 2023 Gardening by the Moon Newsletter for reminders on how and when to cut dead tissue out of trees and plants.   |
| Feb. 5th  | Mow your turf short and dethatch (if needed). See <i>Give your Turf a Haircut</i> below.   |
| Feb. 11th | Aerate turf before application of pre-emergent and fertilizer.   |
| Feb. 14th | Celebrate Valentine's Day with a beautiful flower bouquet.   |
| Feb. 18th | <p>Apply pre-emergent weed control. Follow the label directions for how much to apply.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 20px;">   </div>  |
| Feb. 25th | Fertilize trees this month with $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of turf fertilizer per inch of tree trunk diameter. Spread the fertilizer evenly from the trunk past the tree's drip line. The rest of your landscape fertilizing will take place in March.  |
| Feb. 28th | <p>Now is when you get to start planning your spring color for those warmer temps. Plan for which colors and where you want your new plantings around the home. Consider how much sun and shade the flowers will get to pick the right color for the best places in your yard.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div data-bbox="446 1434 889 1770" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>ANNUAL COLOR - SUN</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Zinnia</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Salvia</p> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <p>Periwinkle</p> </div> </div> <div data-bbox="899 1434 1401 1770" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>ANNUAL COLOR - SHADE</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Caladiums</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Impatiens</p>  </div> </div> </div> </div> |

# Give your Turf a Haircut

By Dr. Moon

To prepare your turf for pre-emergent and fertilizer, cut your grass shorter now. Reduce the mowing height, so the dormant turf is cut short, encouraging the grass to green up quicker in the spring. If you have a thick thatch layer on the soil surface, rent a verticut machine or hire someone that does this work to help remove this excess thatch layer. This will make your turf healthier. Aerate and apply a pre-emergent weed control after dethatching. Fertilize your turf in March. You will see healthy, vigorous turf all summer.



## *Roses are red, Violets are blue...*

*Here are some fun facts about the flowers of February & Valentine's Day:*

- *Roses are one of the oldest flowers.*
- *Violets fall closer to the blue spectrum, even though they might look more purple.*
- *Both flowers are edible.*
- *Both flowers are fragrant.*
- *Red roses symbolize love.*
- *Violets symbolize loyalty, and contrary to the famous phrasing of a "shrinking violet,"-- they don't shrink and are quite beautiful.*
- *And despite the famous Valentine's poem combining red roses and blue violets, they are rarely found in flower arrangements together.*

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