

## FEBRUARY GARDEN 'TO DO' LIST

By Claudette Sims, Halton Master Gardener

- Winter Sowing** is a great way to start or add to your native plant garden. Learn all about winter sowing at this page on the [RBG website](#).
- Seedy Saturdays**/Sundays are typically held in February and are great events to find seeds and information on how to grow plants. Find a Seedy event near you at [Seeds of Diversity](#) by setting the filter to Ontario.
- Seed Libraries** offer free seeds! Search for one near you in [Hamilton](#) or [Burlington](#).
- Seed Starting Dates** depend on your location and what you intend to grow. Use this [Seed Starting Date Calculator](#) to determine when to start your veggie seeds. Enter May 10th as our area frost-free date. It's still too early to start your tomatoes—wait for March.
- Indoor Veggies** – Consider starting some leafy greens indoors. Good choices include [microgreens](#), [lettuce](#), [dwarf kale](#), [mesclun mix](#). Read our "[Indoor Veggie Garden](#)" blog to learn how!
- Find seeds** by searching by company name or name of seed at the [Canadian Seed Catalogue Index](#) (CSCI). There is even a map of Canadian Seed companies at [this link](#)!
- Celebrate Valentine's Day** by making eco friendly choices. If you do buy flowers, ask for paper wrap, not plastic.



Image: Gardening Humour FB Group

“ February 2nd is groundhog day! ”

Any Questions?



Did you hear about the groundhog that drank invisible ink?



It's still at the doctor waiting to be seen.

What do French groundhogs see on Feb 2nd?



Their 'chateau'!

- Pruning** – February to March is a good time to prune most trees and shrubs. Follow the 3 **D's** of pruning and remove branches that are **Diseased**, **Damaged** or **Dead**. Avoid pruning on the coldest days to minimize damage from freezing temperatures and allow wounds to heal better. Learn how to prune fruit trees in this [video](#) from Purdue Extension. Check for [Black knot fungus](#) on **cherry species** (*Prunus*) and prune when temperatures are below freezing. This will prevent black knot fungus spores from infecting the pruning wound. Inspect **Pagoda Dogwood** for signs of [dogwood golden canker](#). Healthy stems are brown to purple and diseased ones, yellow to orange. Prune affected stems to slow the infection. If badly infected, cut the entire shrub to the ground. It will grow back beautifully in spring! Prune **grapes** to increase fruit production and contain their spread. **Raspberries** can be pruned to knee height in late February before the weather warms. Prune [crab apples](#) for a more open structure and remove crossing or rubbing branches and suckers at the base of the tree.