

February Vegetable and Herb Gardening Calendar for Arid Climate Australia

February is the last month of summer, with hot days and strong winds, along with the occasional cyclone up north. During this month there are also cool changes with rain and thunderstorms. It's still a fairly dry time of the year in Victoria, quite hot and dry in South Australia. Weather is hot and humid in NSW, and rain falls for around half the month. In Darwin it's the wet season. There can be strong winds along with the heat, so water deeply and less often during dry periods to encourage roots to grow down, making plants less vulnerable to heat and drought.

Take advantage of the hot dry weather to do weeding and lay the weeds on top of the soil to dry out and become mulch but remove and dispose of the seeding parts first.

Things to Do This Month:

- Summer pruning of fruit trees, cut new green growth by half to maintain size.
- Feed citrus trees and top up mulch (use compost or old manure) over roots, keeping clear of trunk.
- Cut and dry herbs for winter use.
- Collect ripening seeds for plants you wish to propagate.
- Divide perennials towards the end of the month, or if in drought, leave till March.
- Sow cool season green manure crops, such as Broad Beans, Fenugreek, Linseed, Lupins, Mustard, Oats and Vetch, then dug in during autumn before flowering.
- Last chance to sow warm season green manure crops, such as Buckwheat, Cowpea, Japanese Millet, Mung Bean, Mustard, Soybean.
- Prune summer fruiting raspberries – after fruit is picked, cut out old canes and tie new canes (that have grown this year) to supports.
- Keep an eye on water gardens and ponds, water levels can get low due to evaporation. Aquatic plants can become overgrown and require thinning at this time of year.
- Propagation of semi-hardwood (semi-ripe) cuttings is done in mid-late summer, use rooting hormone, and plant in moist commercial propagation mix, or make your own with one-part coarse propagating sand (washed river sand) and one part peat or coconut coir.



Vegetables and Herbs to Grow in February (Temperate Climate)

February Seeds to Sow and Seedlings to Plant (Temperate Climate Australia)	Sow/Plant	Harvest (weeks)
Amaranth	dst	7-8
Asparagus Pea	d	8-11
Basil	st	10-12
Beans (Climbing)	dt	9-11
Beans (Dwarf, Bush)	dt	7-10
Beetroot	dst	7-10
Broccoli	s	10-16
Brussels Sprouts	st	14-28
Burdock	d	17-18
Cabbage	st	8-15
Capsicum	st	10-12
Carrot	d	12-18
Cauliflower	s	15-22
Chinese Cabbage	s	8-10
Chives	dst	7-11
Choko	plant shooting mature fruit	17
Cucumber	dt	8-10
Daikon	d	8-10
Endive	s	10-11
Kohlrabi	d	7-10
Leeks	d	15-18
Lettuce	s	8-12
Marrow	t	12-17
NZ Spinach (Warrigal Greens)	dt	8-10
Onion	s	25-34
Oregano	dst	6-8
Parsley	dst	9-19
Pumpkin	dt	15-20
Radish	d	5-7
Rhubarb	plant crowns	12 months
Rockmelon (Canteloupe)	dt	10-16
Rosella	dt	21-25
Swedes (Rutabaga)	s	10-14
Salsify	d	14-21
Shallots	d	12-15
Silverbeet (Swiss Chard)	dst	7-12
Squash	dt	7-8
Sunflower	dst	10-11
Sweet Corn	dt	11-14
Tomato	dt	8-17



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Turnip	d	6-9
Watermelon	dst	9-14
Zucchini (Courgette, Marrow)	dst	6-9

Key:

d = sow seeds directly into ground

s = sow seeds into seed tray

ds = sow seeds directly into ground or seed tray

t = transplant seedlings (small plants) into larger pots or plant into ground

* = frost tender

** = sow after frost



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