

Press Release

Eddy County Cooperative Extension Service

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY TASK FOR THE LANDSCAPE

Most pruning of deciduous plants occurs in the dormant season and this is a good month for pruning. For best results consult with a good book on how to prune your particular plants, but in general remove dead, diseased, or damaged wood first. Then prune for desired shape, size, or fruit production. Remove suckers and waterspouts from flowering and fruiting trees. Prune most rose in late winter or early spring. For more information on pruning attend the pruning workshop at the Extension office on February 22.

Now is a good time to be planting dormant bare-root stock. If necessary you may prune after planting to establish desired growth pattern. Our climate is mild enough that you may want to direct sow hardy annuals such as sweet peas. It is not quite time to fertilize yet for most warm season lawn and trees. However it is a good time to fertilize cool

season lawns such as fescue. It is also a good time to seed fescue. I always recommend that when fertilizing fescue lawns to mix in about one half of pound of seed to twenty pounds of fertilizer, this helps fill in the bare spots. Trees and warm season grass such as Bermuda should not be fertilized until the soil gets a littler warmer around the middle or end of March. **DO NOT BURN YOUR BERMUDA GRASS.** First off it can be hazardous we have had some house burned down while “greening up the yard “ by burning. The reason the yard looks greener earlier is you have removed all the top and exposed the crown to disease and injury. This also volatilizes any nitrogen in the soil, which will slow down plant growth. The best thing you can do to promote early growth and green up is to de-thatch the lawn and water on warm days. Once the grass starts to green up you can fertilize. For more information Contact your Local County Extension office. This and all programs are available to everyone regardless of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, or veteran status. New Mexico State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Eddy County Government Cooperating “to put knowledge to work”.

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I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.
- Winston Churchill