

Horticultural Points of Interest—February 2017

- **Annuals and Perennials**

- Order Seeds for Annuals
- Some Perennials can be treated like Annuals in that they do not need Stratification for Germination
 - Order these seeds as well

Perennial	No Stratification	Perennial	No Stratification
Achillea	Filapendula & Tomentosa	Agastache	Cana & Rupestris
Arabis	Most	Bergenia	Most
Companula	Most	Echinacea	Most
Echinops	Most	Gaillardia	Most
Inula	Most	Leontopodium	Most
Lilium	Most	Oenothera	Many
Platycondon	Most	Physostegia	Most
Polemonium	Most	Rhododendron	Many
Rhodgersia	Many	Sedum	Many
Stokesia	Most	Thymus	Most
Tiarella	Many	Verbena	Most

- Annuals should be sown 6 to 8 weeks before the last frost
- Perennials can be planted as soon as possible assuming a space with adequate light is available
- **Pruning Early Flowering Shrubs**
 - Forsythias, Quince, Shrub Dogwoods, Kerria and similar early Cane type Shrubs
 - Remove a quarter to a third of the canes particularly older canes or canes that are crossed or tangled
 - Needs to be done well before Flowering
 - Will improve Vigor and Flowering
 - Improves color of those shrubs with highly colored, Fall and Winter Stems and Branches
 - In some cases Branches can be brought inside and Forced into Bloom
- **Gardens**
 - Stems should be left on Perennials prone to Crown Rot
 - Agastache, Monarda, Xeric Perennials
 - Hellebores with tattered Leaves can be pruned back in preparation for Spring Growth
 - Areas with spring Bulbs that need raking, should be raked before new Shoots emerge from the soil
 - Sprinkling wood Ashes over the soil will encourage Flowering of many Bulbs
 - Avoid Lilies
 - For them use Holly Tone early to mid-March
- **Houseplants**
 - Continue Growing Amaryllis, Hyacinths, and Daffodils that Flowered earlier
 - With light and water can be Grown on and Flowered again next year or put into the Garden, if Winter Hardy
 - Many Houseplants benefit from occasional tepid Shower in Sink or Shower
 - Keeps Mites and similar pests under control as well