

# February in the green house.



## The flowers.



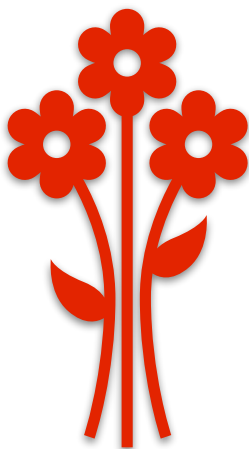
- **Sow lobelia** in a heated propagator.

- **Plant begonia tubers** (hollow side up) in pots of moist compost and cover with a little more compost. Keep them in a bright, frost-free position.

- **Sow antirrhinums** (snapdragons) and **laurentia** now to ensure early flowering.

- **Start dahlia tubers into growth** by planting them in pots of compost, maintaining a minimum temperature of 10 degrees celsius.

- **Sow sweet peas** in a glasshouse, cold frame or a cool place indoors. Soak **sweet pea seeds** in tepid water overnight before planting them, to speed up germination.



- **Grow your own chrysanthemum plants from seed** – start them off now in the greenhouse for the earliest blooms.

- **Sow geraniums (pelargoniums) indoors** now for earlier flowers.

- **Plant or pot on hardwood cuttings** taken last year.

- **Pot on rooted cuttings** of tender perennial plants taken last summer.

## The veggies and herbs.

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- **Start growing (chitting) early potatoes** on a windowsill indoors.
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- **Start sowing cucumber and tomato seeds** for the greenhouse, in warm conditions.
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- **Sow peas** – try sowing them in upcycled guttering with drainage holes drilled in the bottom.
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- **Start asparagus pea seeds** under cover for planting out in late spring.
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- **Sow aubergine seeds** now for indoor crops this summer.
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- **Grow your own basil** on the windowsill to flavour your favourite Italian dishes and fill your kitchen with heady Mediterranean aromas.
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- **Start early sowings of brassicas** under cover. Try Brussels sprouts, summer cabbage, cauliflower 'All the Year Round', and calabrese 'Aquiles'.
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- **Start slow-growing celeriac seeds** now under cover.
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- **Try bolt-resistant varieties of celery**, such as 'Lathom Self Blanching', for early sowings.
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- **Sow leeks under cover** – these vegetables need a long growing season.
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- **Try growing really large onions this year** – sow 'Bunton's Showstopper' and 'Ailsa Craig' indoors now.
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- **Sow sweet peppers** for growing on in a heated greenhouse. Always provide plenty of warmth.

