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## What's happening in Horticulture? February 2026

Greetings gardeners,

By February, we are deep in the winter doldrums, but one welcoming sign that spring is around the corner is the annual **Garden & Green Living Expo** held in Madison, Wisconsin. The Expo is a great way to shake off the winter blues, connect with fellow gardeners, and learn from industry leaders who share a passion for plants and sustainable living. Be sure to plan your visit around the excellent [\*\*lineup of educational talks from UW-Madison horticulture experts\*\*](#) or stop by our booth to say hello!

Read on for timely tips and upcoming events to help you prepare for the growing season ahead.

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### Upcoming Online Programs

- [\*\*2026 Landscape & Grounds Maintenance Short Course\*\*](#)  
Wednesdays, Feb. 11, 18, and 25 | 1-3:30 p.m.
- [\*\*Ask Your Gardening Question: LIVE\*\*](#)  
Wednesday, Feb. 18 | 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- [\*\*Green Thumb Gardening – Composting\*\*](#)  
Thursday, Feb. 19 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- [\*\*Making the Cut: Apple Tree Pruning Workshop\*\*](#)  
Monday, Feb. 23 | Franklin, WI | 9 a.m.-noon  
(More locations scheduled in March!)
- [\*\*Fun and Games at the PDDC!\*\*](#)  
Wednesday, Feb. 25 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

- **Green Thumb Gardening – Vegetable Insect Management**

Thursday, Feb. 26 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.

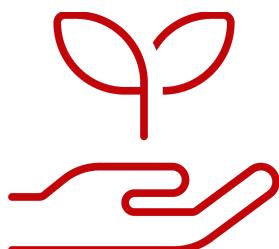
[View more upcoming events](#)



Rime ice—a fleeting winter beauty—forms when cool, moist air meets freezing temperatures, causing water droplets to freeze instantly on contact with cold surfaces.

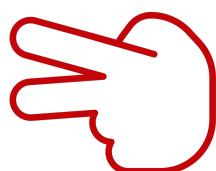
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## Timely Articles



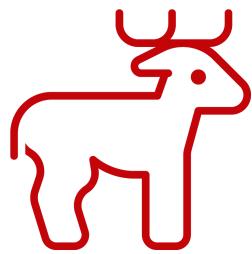
### **Houseplant Care Resources**

Houseplants offer many benefits beyond beautifying a space. Not only can they improve the air quality in your home, they also can improve your mental well-being and reduce stress through basic care techniques. Caring for houseplants involves attention to light, temperature, water, and nutrients. This guide offers practical tips for each aspect of houseplant care, ensuring your plants thrive indoors year-round. [Read more...](#)



### **Pruning Deciduous Trees**

Late winter is an ideal time to prune deciduous trees, as it is easy to see the overall branch structure and identify any issues that can be corrected via pruning. Pruning can help control the size of a tree, influence flowering or fruiting, maintain plant health, and more. [Read more...](#)



## **Plants Not Favored by Deer**

As food becomes scarce in winter, deer seek out alternative food sources like ornamental plants, trees, and hedges. If deer are hungry enough, they will eat almost anything, but if deer are often in your area, consider growing plants that deer usually don't find appealing. [Read more...](#)

## **Join us for the 2026 Garden & Green Living Expo**

Join like-minded gardeners and environmental enthusiasts at this three-day celebration of gardening, landscaping, local food culture and more! Learn from 150+ educational presentations, browse through the exhibitor mall, connect with us at the UW-Madison Extension Horticulture booth, or bring the kids to explore the PBS KIDS Backyard family area.

**Garden & GREEN LIVING EXPO**  
 **PBS Wisconsin | 2026**

**February 13-15  
Alliant Energy Center  
Madison, Wis.**

[Plan Your Visit](#)



## **Wisconsin Yard & Garden**

A weekly column of horticulture education and activities for Wisconsin gardeners. Read the latest articles from this past month.

- [Dormant Tree Pruning Guidelines](#)
- [Misunderstandings & Management of Thatch](#)
- [Healthy Roots Healthy Houseplants](#)
- [Evergreen Shrubs in the Landscape](#)

## In the News

► Listen: [\*\*Garden Talk: Growing berries and starting seeds\*\*](#) | Wisconsin Public Radio | Featuring Vijai Pandian

► Listen: [\*\*Garden Talk: How to use gardening catalogs; Protecting trees in winter\*\*](#) | Wisconsin Public Radio | Featuring Bruce Spangenberg

[\*\*Garden Talk with Larry Meiller live returns to Garden & Green Living Expo\*\*](#) | PBS Wisconsin | Featuring Lisa Johnson and Brian Hudelson

**More Extension Horticulture in the news →**



**Spider plant**, *Chlorophytum comosum*, is an especially popular houseplant for beginners, since it is easy to propagate, tolerant of neglect, and able to thrive in nearly any type of condition.

PLANT HEALTH ADVISING PROGRAM

# Have a gardening Question?

Lawn and garden questions      Plant diagnosis      Soil testing information  
Landscape and gardening information      Plant identification      Plant disease testing information  
Insect identification

[hort.extension.wisc.edu/ask-a-gardening-question](http://hort.extension.wisc.edu/ask-a-gardening-question)

### UW-Madison Division of Extension Horticulture Program

Find articles, resources, educational events and more at [hort.extension.wisc.edu](http://hort.extension.wisc.edu)

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