

What to do in/for the garden now – February 10, 2026

- Don't give up on winter garden vegetables that look bedraggled! As the light returns, they will send out new leaves. Linda says: "No matter how bashed and bedraggled winter broccoli and cauliflower plants look, as long as the stems have not actually been broken, most plants will put out a whole new batch of leaves, followed by heads between March and May."
- Start celery, celeriac, onions and leeks, asparagus, artichoke and parsley indoors
- Check your seed packages. Things that need chilling can go in the fridge in a baggie. For moist chilling, put seeds in a baggie with some starter mix.
Note: Vegetable seeds typically need warmth (22-28 degrees) to start — use a heat mat. Once they've sprouted, 16 hours of light per day is ideal — grow lights that you can raise and lower are ideal, since low light prevents them from reaching for the light.
- Not too late to sprout a sweet potato! Slips will develop from the eyes. Lay an organic sweet potato on its side, half buried in growing mix. Bottom heat, and keep moist.
- Plant sweetpeas outdoors. (Pollinators need flowers, and so do we!)
- Broad beans are usually started outdoors beginning in March, but it has been warm...
Note: Beware of starting biannual vegetables (beets, onions, carrots, several more) outside too early — if the soil becomes cold they will think it's winter, flower and set seed.
- Prune fruit trees – they are beginning to have visible buds!
- Lots of time yet for germination testing! 10-20 seeds on a moist paper towel, kept in a plastic container or bag – keep warm and check for root tips in 2-3 days. If germination is 50%, plant more thickly.

Resources on Linda Gillkeson's website:

- A presentation on seed starting:
<http://www.lindagilkeson.ca/pdf/Starting%20seeds%202022%20web.pdf>
- Special notes for beginners: "More Information for beginning gardeners: You might want to review the basic information included in sections entitled ABCs of Gardening sections in my newsletters of December 21, 2023 to June 2024. Topics covered over the 8 months: Designing beds, compost, lime and other soil amendments, irrigation, weeding, mulching.

Next meeting: March 10, 2026