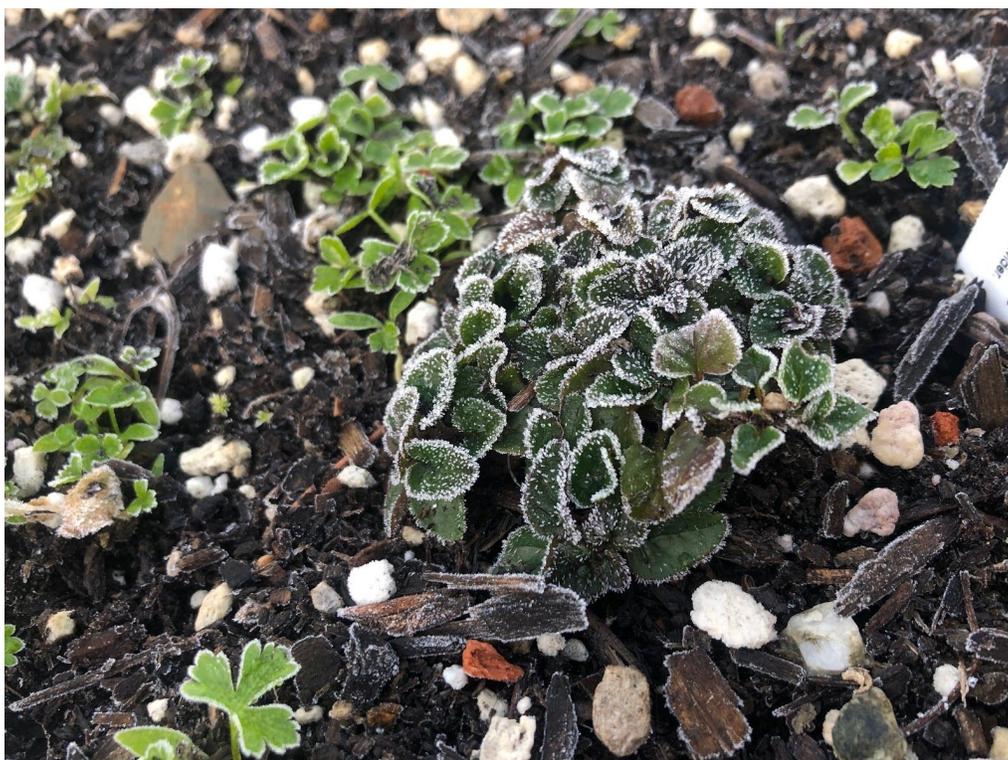


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School Garden Tips: February



- **Garden Maintenance:** Continue to prune dead flower stalks. Add mulch or compost around perennials and fruit trees (but don't pile mulch around the crown of the tree to prevent crown rot). If the garden has any fruit trees, help reduce future pest and disease problems by cleaning up debris and old fruit from under the trees. Attend the Fruit Tree Care Workshop on Feb 19 from 3:00-5:00 at Korematsu Discovery Academy to learn more about pruning and fruit tree care. Rains may make weeds a real problem this month because many species are germinating from seed, and those which have overwintered are setting new seed right now. Destroy weeds before they get a chance to disperse their seeds, and remove all weed seedlings. Weeds should be placed in the municipal compost bin.

- **Planting Guide**

- **Seeds:** Peas, carrots, onions, radish, arugula, kale, parsley, cilantro in the garden beds. Potatoes, garlic, and shallots can also be planted directly into the ground now. Start seeds indoors (if available) for warm-season crops- tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, basil.
- **Plants:** Set out plant starts of lettuce, peas, chard, leeks, onions, and brassicas.

- **Pest & Disease Alert:** Check early-blooming bulbs for aphids. Keep an eye out for [snails](#), [slugs](#), and [earwigs](#). You are unlikely to see slugs and snails during the daytime, but you may see signs of their damage--irregular holes with smooth edges and silvery mucous trails. If you see these signs, check for slugs on the underside of leaves and on the underside of any surfaces and put them in the green bin. They are especially fond of tender new plants.

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UC Master Gardener Program of Alameda County
School Garden Team