

## **JOBS FOR FEBRUARY**

As was the case for December and January, watering and protection from the scorching sun are the main priorities this month. Trees will appreciate a more sheltered position until the weather begins to cool down.

Depending on the temperature in your area, some of your 'minis', or trees in shallow pots, may require watering twice daily.

Maintain a good layer of pebbles or moss around surface roots of your trees as the fine roots are susceptible to burn.

With the amount of watering over the past months the leaching of nutrients from the soil probably means a dose of liquid fertilizer would not go astray. If your privets and olives are still sending out plenty of new growth I'm sure they will appreciate the fertilizer.

Continue to prune your trees to shape, however, early flowering trees should not be pruned as the buds will have started to set. Major pruning should be avoided until the weather cools down a bit, but now is a good time to apply lime sulphur to any 'jins' and 'sharis'. The lime sulphur is yellow when it goes on but dries to a bright white colour. It is used as both a preservative and for aesthetic purposes. Remember to protect the soil and pots from 'splashing'. I always use the lime sulphur straight.

Thrips can be a problem at this time of year and tend to live on the underside of leaves. Remove affected leaves and spray tree with 'Confider' ensuring the underside of leaves are sprayed as well.