

January



The summer is well on its way and it is the time of the year. Typically, one of the warmest months of the year, with moderate amount of lovely sunshine every day. The garden however can become stressed for excessive heat and prolonged periods of dryness.

- ☛ Trim bay trees and box plants trained in spires, balls or other topiary shapes.
- ☛ It is recommended that you add waterlilies and other floating aquatic plants to help provide shade and keep water cooler.
- ☛ Check plants for powdery mildew disease and spray the foliage of affected plants with a systemic fungicide.
- ☛ You may need to water the lawn during prolonged hot, dry periods to keep it green and growing.
- ☛ This is a great time to treat, perennial weeds with weed killer based on glyphosate.
- ☛ Pests will be very active this month thus it is necessary to check plants on a regular basis and keep ahead of problems. Red spider mite can be a problem in hot, dry environment.
- ☛ Continue to feed your lawn with a liquid lawn food to keep it lush, green and healthy.
- ☛ It is best advised to use edging shears to regularly trim around the edges of the lawn to maintain a sharp outline.

February



February, and we see the summer coming to an end. It's one of the best months to enjoy the fruits of your labour earlier in the year. Besides having Barbecues, al fresco dining, do not forget to pick lots of tasty fruit and vegetables and keep the garden looking great!

- ☛ Ensure summer bedding displays continue to flower well into autumn with regular watering, feeding and deadheading.
- ☛ Keep pots, tubs and hanging baskets looking great by watering daily and feeding every 10-14 days
- ☛ Continue to feed tomatoes, peppers, aubergines and cucumbers every fortnight with a high potash liquid plant food.
- ☛ Keep deadheading roses as the flowers fade to keep them flowering well into autumn and beyond.
- ☛ This is a great time to take semi-ripe cuttings of shrubs such as choisya, hebe, hydrangea, lavender and rosemary.
- ☛ Cut back the old leaves of summer-flowering perennials to encourage new, more attractive foliage.
- ☛ Take stem cuttings of half-hardy perennials and patio plants, such as fuchsias and pelargoniums, to produce new plants for next season
- ☛ Plug gaps in beds and borders with good-sized summer-flowering plants from the garden center.

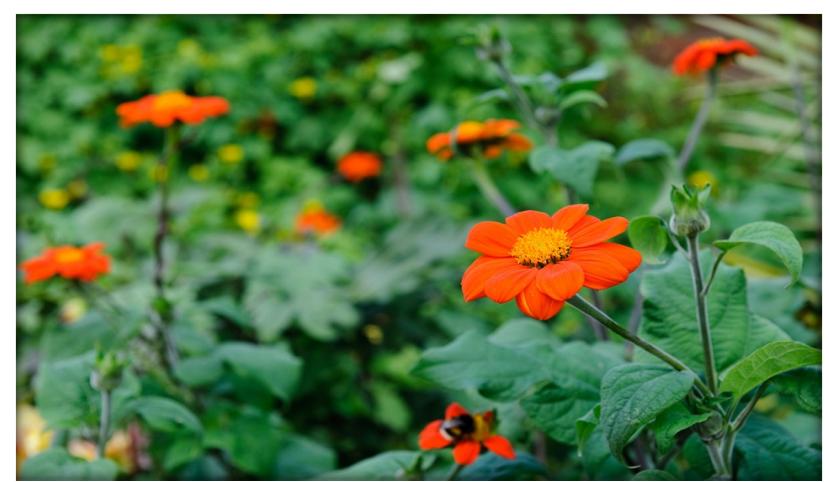
March



March is the start of autumn change of seasons from Summer is welcomed by gardeners and garden alike! The sun begins to lose its intensity, while tropical storms and hot, drying winds subside.

- ☛ Replace summer bedding with winter- and spring-flowering bedding, when it starts to go over.
- ☛ This is the perfect time to plant all manner of new trees, shrubs, climbers, roses and hedges.
- ☛ Start planting spring-flowering bulbs, such as daffodils, tulips, crocus and snowdrops.
- ☛ Cut back the flowering stems of perennials that are fading and dying down.
- ☛ Don't be fooled by autumn showers – patio pots, planters and hanging baskets may still need watering.
- ☛ Continue to feed tomatoes and other fruiting vegetables with a high potash liquid plant food.
- ☛ Continue to take stem cuttings of half-hardy perennials and patio plants, such as fuchsias and pelargoniums, to produce new plants for next year.
- ☛ Kill moss in lawns with a suitable moss killer. Repair bare areas or those with a thin grass covering using grass seed or a lawn patching kit.

April



April and we are in mid Autumn meaning your summer displays will go on flowering and looking gorgeous. Keep an eye on the weather and treat your plants accordingly, watering whenever necessary in depending on conditions.

- ☛ Lift fuchsias, pelargoniums and all the other half-hardy bedding perennials for overwintering frost free.
- ☛ Prune back or 'dead-head' (remove dead flowers) roses to promote a final autumnal flush of blooms.
- ☛ Cut down herbaceous perennials that have finished flowering. Trim evergreen shrubs that need tidying
- ☛ Aerate, using a garden fork to spike the lawn and remove dead thatch by raking firmly
- ☛ Lift tender summer-flowering bulbs, such as gladioli, and keep them in a cool shed or similar until planting out again next year.
- ☛ Raise all patio containers on to bricks or pot feet to avoid them sitting in water in autumn and winter. Sow a hardy overwintering variety of broad beans for an early crop next year.
- ☛ Plant garlic cloves, but make sure it is a variety suitable for autumn planting.

May



As Autumn comes to draw close the days become mild and mellow - perfect for restoring the garden back to its best, harvesting the last of the Summer vegetables and planning for the cooler months ahead.

- ➲ Containers planted with evergreens and winter-flowering plants will provide months of colour.
- ➲ Keep raking up fallen leaves – especially on the lawn or around small plants. Use them to make leafmould.
- ➲ Keep an eye out for aphids, especially on roses. Control them with a systemic insect spray (not to be used on food plants)
- ➲ Pests on vegetables and herbs can be and be particularly watchful for the caterpillars of the White Cabbage Butterfly on cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli
- ➲ This is the best month to take hardwood cuttings of various deciduous shrubs and soft fruit.
- ➲ Check tree ties and stakes are secure to prevent tree roots moving around too much in strong winds.
- ➲ Radishes, cress, salad leaves and winter lettuces can be grown in pots on a light windowsill or in a conservatory.
- ➲ This is a great time to plant hardy trees, shrubs, climbers, roses, perennials and hedges.
- ➲ Weedkillers aren't very effective in cold weather – hoe weeds to prevent them becoming established.

June



Even though June can be very cold there's nothing better than banishing the winter blues by getting out into the garden. You might not think there's much you can do, but anything done now will help to make that spring mad rush more manageable.

- ☛ Weeds may still appear in mild weather, so hoe regularly to prevent them becoming established.
- ☛ Apply a thick mulch to protect the roots of borderline hardy plants.
- ☛ Protect winter vegetable crops like cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and broccoli from aphids

- ☛ Draw up your plans for which flowers you want to grow next year and order the seeds, so you don't miss out in spring.
- ☛ Cut back herbaceous perennials like wind flowers, penstemon, catmint, bergamot, canna.
- ☛ Lawns that are saturated on a regular basis will improve greatly if a permanent underground drainage system is installed.
- ☛ Treat fences and other wooden structures with a wood preservative.
- ☛ Cover overwintering brassicas with horticultural fleece or netting to stop pigeons getting at them.



Short days, cold nights, biting winds off the ocean and lashing rain all indicate winter is with us again. The residents of northern Australia, winter is typically sunny with mild to warm days while in the south, days suitable for gardening may be few and far between.

- ➲ We do not generally recommend fertilising lawns over winter as most grasses are dormant, the exception would be leafy winter vegetables, fertilise them with quality feeds every fortnight to keep plants growing strongly.
- ➲ Prune deciduous fruit trees including apple, pear, peach, apricot, plum, cherry, almond and nectarine, but do not prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees now.
- ➲ Keep deadheading winter-flowering pansies to ensure they flower during mild weather.
- ➲ Stay off the lawn when it's frosty or you could damage the grass and leave brown footprint marks.
- ➲ Cover wall-trained peaches with a 'tent' of polythene to protect against peach leaf curl disease.
- ➲ Use a weed-control membrane when planting up new beds to help keep them weed free.
- ➲ Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubblewrap works well.
- ➲ Use a wooden plank if you need to walk on heavy clay soils when they are wet or covered with sleet to help spread your weight.

August



As we move to the end of winter, things begin to stir in the garden in August. Even though the soil is cold, winter is the season to plant bare-rooted trees and shrubs. Gardening suppliers will be full of stock from late June right through to early Spring.

- ➲ Always check the current and upcoming weather conditions when considering what to do in the garden.
- ➲ Spiking the lawn with a garden fork will help reduce water logging problems.
- ➲ Tie wall shrubs and climbers securely to their supports to protect them from wind damage.
- ➲ Cover the blossom of early-flowering peaches and nectarines with fleece to protect from frost damage.
- ➲ Install water butts and other water-collection systems if possible, to save water.
- ➲ Continue drawing up your plans for this year's vegetable cropping and order seeds and other planting material.
- ➲ When it's too cold to garden outside in the vegetable patch, try growing some vegetables and herbs in pots.
- ➲ Prune deciduous ornamental trees and shrubs if required - maple, ash, elm, etc
- ➲ Make a list of shrubs you like for their winter flowers - and remember to plant them next Spring for instance Camellias, magnolias and wattles bloom from mid to late Winter.

September



Spring is the start of the year for gardens and gardeners. It's the season where existing plants burst into new growth and new plants can go in. It's time for gardeners to get outside and enjoy it.

- ☛ Lawns need attention as we come out of winter. Cold weather slows growth and allows weeds to get a toe-hold - take action now to kill them off!
- ☛ Fertilising the entire garden, including lawns, in early spring will ensure strong, healthy plants throughout the growing season
- ☛ Prune blossom and other trees that flower in early spring as soon as flowering has finished
- ☛ Don't overdo it this month. Take your time and concentrate on the most important jobs and the ones you enjoy doing most.
- ☛ If you don't have much success with seeds, it's better to buy plug plants and seedlings for growing on.
- ☛ Mulch the soil around trees and shrubs with a 5-7.5cm (2-3in) thick mulch.
- ☛ Take stem cuttings of half-hardy perennials and patio plants, such as fuchsias and pelargoniums.
- ☛ Check plants regularly for pests and diseases and deal with them promptly to prevent them becoming a problem.

October



October is the height of spring and there is a lot to be getting on with in the garden. But be aware of changeable weather and check weather forecasts. Cold nights, frosts and general low temperatures are all possibilities, these can adversely affect young, new growth, bedding and young

- ☛ Make the most of any warm days and evenings to enjoy eating outside on the patio.
- ☛ Take things steadily enjoy gardening. After all, it is meant to be a relaxing hobby!
- ☛ It is obvious we want to keep our garden away from pests and insect but also make sure you grow plants that are beneficial to butterflies, bees and other garden-friendly insects.
- ☛ Keep adding suitable material to the compost bin to make your own soil improver and mulch.
- ☛ Feed all your garden plants with a suitable plant food – especially if you didn't do it at the start of Spring.
- ☛ Hoe annual weeds regularly to stop them getting established and becoming a problem.
- ☛ Deadhead spring-flowering bulbs when the flowers fade and give them a liquid feed.
- ☛ Keep protecting susceptible plants from slug and snail damage.

November



November is a busy time in the garden, getting ready for what will hopefully be a great summer. The days are getting longer, allowing more time to enjoy gardening. The warmer temperatures provide great growing conditions, but cold nights are still possible, so keep an eye on tender plants, which

- ☛ Mulch borders with bark to help retain essential soil moisture and keep down weeds.
- ☛ Seedlings of late Spring and Summer flowering annuals like alyssum, lobelia, French marigold, petunia, portulaca, salvia and zinnia - check what's in stock at your local garden centre
- ☛ Always use a spreader adjusted to the correct setting and choose a fertiliser suited to your grass type unless you are in love with liquid fertilisers
- ☛ Quickly repair bare patches caused by weed removal with lawn mixes, patch solutions or seed & feed blends as per your lawn type.
- ☛ Harden off young plants grown indoors, acclimatising them to outdoor conditions for 7-10 days.
- ☛ Plant up patio pots with permanent hardy plants - trees, shrubs, perennials and even fruit.
- ☛ Sow tender vegetables, such as sweet corn outside in the ground and fast-maturing vegetables, such as salad crops, every 10-14 days to ensure a continuous supply.
- ☛ Carefully deadhead azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons to remove faded flowers.

December



Take the necessary actions well ahead to help your garden withstand the extremes conditions that will arise later in the summer.

- ➲ It is best advised to use a wetting agent as the summer begins along with the use of liquid fertilisers to feed your garden regularly.
- ➲ Early summer, still a time to plant flowers & vegetables. It is well advised to stay indoors and avoid planting in the heat of the day.
- ➲ Trimming trees and shrubs in early summer will help keep them neat and tidy as well as encourage bushiness, rather than long, straggly growth.
- ➲ Lawn Grubs can be active in lawns in warmer areas. If you didn't treat the lawn in Spring already then apply grub & insect control solutions can be of help.
- ➲ It is essential to take steps in order to protect summer vegetables and other edibles against caterpillars, thrips, and other soft-bodied insect pests.
- ➲ Mites can do a lot of damage to ornamental plants. Try to use insecticides specific in killing mites and the similar pests, do not use the same on food plants!
- ➲ Check on plants on a regular basis to see if they need watering. Give them a thorough soaking, if deemed necessary.
- ➲ Plant summer-flowering bulbs, such as begonias, cannas, dahlias and gladioli.