

# Gardening



# How does your garden grow?

## Q&A

**Q:** If I need help with plant identification, can I bring a photo to the nursery for help?  
-Mary, Castlemaine.

**A:** Absolutely! It's what we are here for. It's best to have as much info as possible, bring in photos and share what you know of the location, foliage, flowers and bark.

**Q:** When I mulch my vegies with pea straw, I get slimy bugs eating everything! Am I using the incorrect mulch?  
- Karina, Castlemaine.

**A:** When you mulch your vegies its best to leave a couple of stale beer traps out to reduce the slugs from damaging your seedlings.

**Q:** If I use a liquid feed for my azaleas, do I have to feed more often than if I use a dry feed?  
- Daniel, Castlemaine.

**A:** You do need to feed more frequently with liquid feed, it is best to do a combination of both.

**Q:** How do I keep my lawn looking green over the summer without a huge water bill?  
- Marve, Castlemaine.

**A:** Watering of a night is the most efficient use of water. Also, feeding your lawn regularly to encourage healthy roots can help with water retention too.

**Q:** What is a good ground cover to use to keep out weeds?  
- Bell, Castlemaine.

**A:** Myoporum, snow in summer cerastium, prostrate conifers and cousin it casuarina are fantastic choices.

- Elisabeth Templeton,  
ASQ Garden & Landscape.

Pick a sunny day and get stuck into your gardening. Give your vegie patch and roses a feed. PowerFeed for Tomatoes & Vegetables should be applied once a week to keep your vegies at their best, and Grow Better Blooming Roses is the perfect option for your rose bushes. It is also an excellent time to feed your indoor plants too. Apply some PowerFeed between now and Christmas.

Your apricots and cherries should have fruited by now, and your roses may have finished blooming, so it's time to give them both a good prune.

When pruning your roses, remove the deadhead and cut them right back, approximately 150mm from the flower head, to encourage new growth.

While you have your secateurs out, be sure to give your citrus trees a hard summer shaping prune.

While keeping busy in the garden, add some mulch to your garden beds. It will help your soil retain its moisture.

Throughout the month, give your vegie patch water daily and when watering your beds and trees, do so deeply. Over summer, your beds and trees prefer a good soaking, so best to avoid more frequent shallow waterings.

### Vegies to sow

If you are growing your vegies from seed, it's not too late to sow your sunflowers, carrots, radishes and beans. With the warm summer sun and plenty of water, they will be up in no time!

### Flowers to grow

December is a great time to plant marigolds, lisianthus, gerberas and New Guinea impatiens. They are all distinctive to summer, providing flowers with good colour and creating an impressive display over the summer!



It's time to sow your sunflowers, carrots and radishes.



New Guinea impatiens make a lovely addition to the garden.

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