

Gardening



Q&A

Q: Can you pick lemons before they turn yellow and let them ripen off the tree or should you leave them on the tree until they change colour?
– Megan, Taradale.

A: I say best to wait until they are full sized (5-7cm), firm but not hard and yellow to yellow-green in colour. Lemon's don't like to fully ripen off the tree.

Q: My Lilly Pilly's leaves have dried out, and they look as though they're being eaten by something. Will they improve if I give them a good trim and should I spray them with a bug spray? If so, what do you recommend?
– Wayne, Castlemaine.

A: Firstly, I would try and ID what insect is doing the damage. Usually, by the time we can see the damage, the insect has moved on. Take some leaves or if you can, the insect into Skydancers or your local nursery and they'll be able to recommend the best action. I wouldn't cut your Lilly Pilly back until mid-late spring because the frost will most likely burn off any new growth if you trim it now.

Q: How do you get rid of snails without having to use snail pellets?
– Ange, Castlemaine.

A: Put a small bread and butter dish of stale beer out. The snails will be attracted to the yeast and they'll drown. Fizzy drinks do work, but they are not as effective.

Q: What time of the year do you plant raspberry and blueberries?
– Tammy, Castlemaine.

A: Plant them in Autumn and Winter as it gives your plants time to settle in before the hot summer weather arrives.

Q: I need to move some gum trees from a pot to the ground and they are 1.5 metres tall, will they survive?
– Barb, Malmesbury.

A: They should be fine! Generally, gums do better the smaller you get them in the ground (tubes or 6" pots). If you stake them and make sure the root ball doesn't dry out when they are getting established, they should kick on really nicely.

- Elisabeth Templeton,
ASQ Skydancers.

July is the perfect month to plant your deciduous ornamental and fruit trees, tidy up your garden beds, build compost and do some pruning and spraying. ASQ Skydancers has a full range of fruit trees and deciduous ornamental trees in stock. Planting violas, ericas, pansies, and happy wanderers are a great way to add some colour to your garden during the cooler months!

Give your camellias and established citrus trees a top up with fertiliser, as they are now producing flowers or fruit. Grow Better Camellia & Azalea Food and Fruit & Citrus Food are great products that will get the job done.

It is also an excellent time to give your English box and peony roses some extra nutrients with Grow Better Dolomite Lime and Blood & Bone.

It is now time to start your pruning, this encourages new growth for plants producing flowers and fruit. For blossom wood plants such as peaches, nectarines, citrus and roses, and you can expect new flowers and fruit in the same season.

You can prune Apples, pears, plums and apricots however, you will need to wait a season for new fruit.

Vegies to sow

Vegies you can continue to sow in July include beetroot, garlic, onion, radish and peas. When planting your garlic, plant it in a sunny spot, with well-drained soil. Garlic takes a while to grow, so plant it now to have your garlic ready to harvest in the new year.

Flowers to plant

It's time to plant your new season deciduous plants. Fruit trees, and roses are a few that fit into this category. We have a great range of bare rooted roses in store now at great prices, from standards to climbers and bush roses.

Visit ASQ Skydancers for everything you need to get your roses planted today!

Winter is a great time to get out and have a good general tidy up and prune in your garden.



Get your garlic in now to enjoy fresh garlic in the new year.



Ericas make a gorgeous addition providing a beautiful splash of colour.

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