

Gardening



Roses ready and waiting for planting

Q&A

Q: I have a peace lily that I left for a weekend when I recently went away. I watered it before I left (it was dry) and left it in its usual spot by a large window. It was very cold that weekend and since then the leaves have been turning black, even a couple of new little ones which opened on the weekend the plant was left alone. Was it the cold through the window that has caused such ills? Nothing has changed for the plant in its treatment or position in the house, so the blackening of the leaves seems odd!
- Valerie, Taradale.

A: It's always a bit tricky to pinpoint specific problems, but it is generally over/ under watering (which could have occurred if let it dry out too much) when you get browning on the tips of the leaves. It sounds like you have leaves that have turned black through, I think it may be due to the cold. Your peace lily is most likely used to a lovely heated home and been left in a cold home for the weekend next to a frosty window, it would have burnt the tender new leave. Best cut them off and keep it in a bit of a warmer location when going away over winter.

Q: It is too cold now to sew parsley seeds? Or will they do ok in a sunny spot in the carport?
- Meade, Castlemaine.

A: You could but they may be very slow to germinate. Put a piece of glass over the tray/pot to help keep the heat in.

Q: My Daphne at home that my friends gave me, some of the leaves are going a little yellow, is there anything I could put on it or is that completely normal?
- Denise, Kyneton.

A: A little yellowing is normal with the cold, especially on older leaves. It will be coming into flowering soon, so a light feed of slow release pellets will help if it's low in nitrogen (greening in the leaves).

Q: Is regular fertilising good or bad for your garden?
- Lydia, Castlemaine.

A: Fantastic! Always! Your garden will use it more in the warmer months, as for most plants this is their primary growing season.
- Elisabeth Templeton, ASQ Skydancers.

Winter is the perfect time for establishing your bare root stock, with a large selection of roses, ornamentals and fruit trees in various sizes. ASQ Skydancers has a great variety of bare root stock available now and ready for planting.

When planting, dig a hole that is wide and not too deep. Add some organic matter to your hole, such as organic compost and a well rotted manure. After your plant is in it's hole, check and make sure your plant is sitting no deeper than the soil mark on the stem. The graft or bud unions on your bare root stock needs to be above the soil. Backfill with soil and water in to settle soil around the roots. No need to add any fertiliser as the plants are dormant, wait until early spring then fertilise to help encourage new growth.

If you are looking to add some colour to your garden to brighten up those winter days, consider planting some azaleas, camellias and hellebores! These stunning plants will display gorgeous colour throughout the cooler months. Top up mulch on your vegie patches, herb gardens and ornamental beds. Mulch is great for weed suppression at this time of year. Add mulch after watering the garden bed, to a depth of about 50mm.

Vegies to sow

You can plant many winter vegies now, including broad beans, cabbage, lettuce, rhubarb, onions, radish, turnip, peas and garlic. It's also time to plant new season berries such as raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, silvanberries, and currants.

Flowers to plant

Now is a great time to plant azaleas, camellias, daphnes, hellebores, liriopes, stock, cornflowers and flax. Plant your annuals such as pansies, violas, polyanthus, primulas, bellis and calendulas.

Plant your bare root roses now to enjoy beautiful spring colour.



It's time to plant your strawberries!

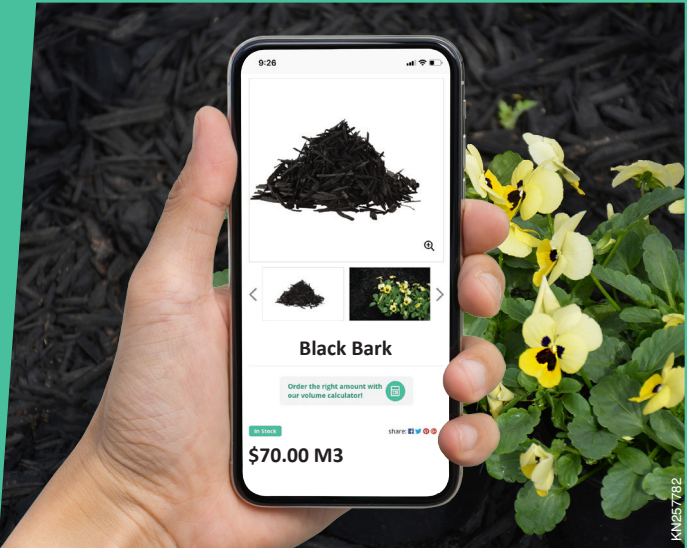


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