## Gardening



Q&A

Q: What's the best way to safely handle potting mix? - Angela, Malmsbury.

**A:** Wear gloves and when you open the bag, it is best to water it straight away with a watering can to reduce any dust.

Q: What's the easiest vegetable to grow in your garden at the moment? – Susie, Castlemaine.

A: Choose the vegies that you love to eat! There are lots of easy to grow veggies. Try lettuce, radish and pumpkins just to name a few!

Q: What's the difference between compost and mulch? – Maree, Castlemaine.

A: Compost is worked into your soil. It is semi decomposed organic plant matter. Mulch is added onto of your soil to help retain moisture and to encourage biological activity. Over time mulch may become compost.

Q: I would like to grow a hedge but the ground is very wet over winter. What would be best to plant here? – Tammy, Castlemaine. Pick a beautiful sunny day and get stuck into the garden! Not only will soaking up the sunshine make you feel great, but with Christmas just around the corner, it's time to get everything into shape before friends and family start arriving.

From pruning your spring bloomers to planting tomatoes, planning your summer flowers and feeding your roses, November really is one of the best times of the year for gardening.

If you want to keep your roses blooming well into summer, now is the time to feed them. For a great all-rounder you can't go past Grow Better's Blooming Roses which provides all of the essential nutrients your rose plants need to produce an abundance of strong, healthy roses.

Use PowerFeed for Tomatoes & Vegetables on your vegie patch, is a great slow release product to use for feeding citrus and tomatoes. If your garden is home to spring bloomers such as eriostemon and diosma you will want to give them a trim after they have finished flowering. Hold off until late summer before trimming wisteria. If you have rose varieties that only flower once in spring, you can dead head the flowers now and prune them once their blooms have finished.

## Vegies to sow

With the frosty mornings behind us and the warmer weather just around the corner, now is the perfect time to plant tomatoes if you haven't already. With the days getting warmer and the sun shining a little bit brighter, your tomatoes are sure to start thriving! We recommend adding Seasol PowerFeed to your watering can when you water your tomatoes in, this will give them the best start to life.

## Flowers to plant

If you're dreaming of a blooming garden this summer, now is the time to start planting! Some of our favourite summer flowers include petunias, vincas, snapdragons, alyssum, impatiens, marigolds and foxgloves...just to name a few!

## ASQ Skydancers Garden, Gift and Café

Now is the perfect time to get into the garden and get prepared for the upcoming summer festivities.



It is time to plant your tomatoes, if you haven't already done so.



Snapdragons add a beautiful splash of colour to your garden.



**A:** Photinia Robusta and Callistemons are a fantastic choice for wet soil!

Q: Is there any disease I should be looking for on my plants with this humid weather? - Peter, Barkers Creek.

A: The recent humid weather can bring on more fungal diseases in your garden. Keep an eye out for black spot on roses, mildew on cucurbits/beans and rust on your holly hocks.

- Elisabeth Templeton, ASQ Garden & Landscape. ASQ Skydancers Café has a great range of hot and cold drinks, pies and pasties, delicious cakes, slices and biscuits!

Café open Fri to Sun 9am - 4pm Takeaway or outdoor dining only



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