

# Gardening



## How does your garden grow?

### Q&A

**Q:** Can coffee beans be used as a renewal for the garden?  
– Susie, Taradale.

**A:** You can use coffee grounds as compost in moderation on your garden beds.

**Q:** Is there a way I can preserve the flowers on my camellias for longer without covering them from the elements?  
– Amy, Castlemaine.

**A:** It's just mother nature! I enjoy them longer by having them floating in a dish of water inside on the coffee table.

**Q:** When is the best time to plant dahlias - is it too late to start now?  
– Bryan, Castlemaine.

**A:** You need to wait a little longer to time it so that the dahlias are shooting up after the last frost has gone (approximately Melbourne Cup long weekend).

**Q:** What's the best type of Lavender to make a hedge?  
– Tam, Castlemaine.

**A:** It comes down to personal preference, French lavender is a great option as it grows the tallest. However, I also love the classic English lavender.

**Q:** What can you plant to keep insects away from your vegetable garden?  
– Terri, Harcourt.

**A:** Nasturtiums are one of the best pest repellent plants... they are easy to grow, attract pollinators and you can also use the flowers in summer salads!

– Elisabeth Templeton,  
ASQ Garden & Landscape.

The weather is getting warmer, flower buds are starting to swell, and fresh foliage is everywhere. Make the most of the longer days by giving your garden and lawn a feed and planting your spring vegetables.

There are many flowers and vegies that can be planted now, so stock up on seedlings and fill your vegie and herb gardens before the summer picnics, and barbecues start.

October is the best time to feed your lawn to help it recover from the long, cold winter! No matter what type of lawn you have, Sir Walter Fertiliser is a great all-rounder.

Come in and see the teams at ASQ Garden & Landscape and ASQ Skydancers to get expert advice on what to use, and how much you should apply.

If you missed the opportunity to prune back in July/August, you can give your natives, fruit trees, roses and lavender a light prune now. This will help to promote additional growth and abundant flowering and fruit.

Spring time presents a great opportunity to add a liquid plant fertiliser for new growth and this will help to rejuvenate your mulch as well!

#### Vegies to sow

If you haven't planted your spring vegetables yet, it's time to get cracking! Beans, beetroot, chives, eggplant, leeks, lettuce, parsley, silver beet, spring onion and sweet corn are some of our favourites, just to name a few. You should wait until the end of the month, when the frosts have finished to plant your tomatoes, capsicums and zucchinis.

#### Flowers to plant

If you want to add some spring colour to your garden, now is a suitable time to plant your dianthus, geraniums, lavender, marigolds, petunias and snapdragons! Check out the gorgeous Princess Lavender with its vibrant pink flowers in full bloom. It is a stunning, low maintenance and very versatile plant.

**Give your lawn a good feed to ensure it is looking its best when summer arrives.**



**Now is the time to plant your eggplants to enjoy gorgeous summer dishes like this one.**



**Lavender is a beautiful, colourful and fragrant addition to any garden.**

## ASQ Skydancers Garden, Gift and Café

ASQ Skydancers Café has a great range of hot and cold drinks, pies and pasties, delicious cakes, slices and biscuits!

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



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