

# Gardening

## Q&A

**Q:** I don't like using chemicals in my garden. What great tips do you have to keep pests like the dreaded white cabbage moth under control without resorting to toxic chemicals?  
- Anna, Castlemaine

**A:** Netting using a fruit fly net is a fantastic way to keep those pesky cabbage moths away and not have to use chemicals.

**Q:** It's been said that the rule of thumb for planting tomatoes and basil, in Melbourne is to wait for Melbourne Cup weekend - but Melbourne has a milder climate than Castlemaine - what's the best advice you have for when best to plant these spring-summer classics here in our local patch?  
- Trudy, Castlemaine

**A:** It's true, holding off until planting your summer veg and herbs until Melbourne Cup weekend is the classic rule of thumb for the Castlemaine area because we still have the risk of late frosts. It's a key marker for the calendar. Melbourne gardeners don't experience the frost like we do, so they can begin planting tomatoes and basil as early as the start of September.

**Q:** What bulbs are good to plant now for an investment that will produce wonderful flowering colour into the future?  
- Marg, Castlemaine

**A:** There are so many summer flowering bulbs to plant! Here are just a few Gladiolus, Lilly of the Valley and Dahlias. All very beautiful!

**Q:** How do I attract butterflies to my garden?  
- Susie, Harcourt

**A:** Plant lots of nectar producing plants and host plants. Try Verbena, Buddleia, Viburnums and Swan Bush to get you started.

**Q:** I want to spray feed my lawn but I don't know what kind of grass it is. What brand of Weed 'n' Feed can I use?  
- Julie, Taradale

**A:** Best take a sample of your grass to your local nursery and then they can ID it for you and recommend a selective herbicide. You want to make sure you have a good understanding of what variety of turf you have otherwise things can end very badly if you use the wrong selective herbicide/Weed 'n' Feed.

**Q:** Pruning tips for Spring?  
- Lucas, Castlemaine

**A:** It's time to cut back your herbaceous perennials (including Salvias, Nepeta and Achillea) followed up with a good feed. It's a great time of year to trim your hedges too.

**Q:** How do I garden in a small space?  
- Jim, Chewton

**A:** Your options are endless! Pop into your local nursery for a bit of inspiration. Pots are a great option for small space, pack them full of herbs and colour! Depending on how much sun or shade you get in your garden, you might prefer to go for succulents, ferns or even citrus trees.

- Elisabeth Templeton,  
ASQ Garden & Landscape.



## How does your garden grow?

Spring has arrived and it is the perfect time to get planting!

Spring has arrived, and we couldn't be happier about the season ahead! Now is the perfect time to get out in the garden and enjoy the warmer days.

From establishing new garden beds, rejuvenating your tired lawn, sprucing up neglected areas of your yard or giving everything a good feed, there is very little that you can't do to your garden during spring.

It's the ideal time to give your entire garden a good feed of fertiliser. Eradicate any weeds before feeding your plants and lawn with some fertiliser and water it in well. An excellent general purpose fertiliser is Grow Better's Organic Fertiliser, this can be used on roses, fruit trees and most of your plants, use Grow Better Natural Natives on the natives in your garden. There is not much pruning to be done at this time of year, as all the major pruning projects should already be done. Cut back any plants that look untidy, especially those damaged by winter frosts and make sure to include them when doing your spring feeding to help generate new growth.

### Veggies to sow

The beginning of spring is a great time to plant many veggies, including beetroot, capsicums, celery, chives, onions, parsley, parsnip, peas, strawberries, radish and silverbeet.

### Flowers to plant

Add a splash of colour to your garden and brighten your day with some beautiful flowering plants! Flowers you can sow in September include aster, cosmos, gerbera, lobelias, marigolds, petunias and sunflowers, just to name a few!



It's time to plant your capsicums.



Sunflowers are a gorgeous way to bring colour to your 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!

Takeaway or outdoor dining only  
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