

Gardening



How does
your garden
grow?

Q&A

Q: How do plants recover from heat stress?
– Meg, Castlemaine

A: *Selecting the right plant for the right location is your best preventative for heat stress. Some plants e.g ferns, like to be regularly misted with water on hot days. Other plants have their own natural coping methods such as pumpkins, they will wilt on very hot days but bounce back in the evening when the heat stress is over.*

Q: How do you keep soil cool in summer?
– Taite, Castlemaine

A: *Mulch, mulch and more mulch. A layer of 50mm is typically recommended, I find using a bark mulch or straw mulch cooler than the pebble mulches that can reflect heat. Deep watering will also help keep the root system cool during hot periods.*

Q: What happens when plants get too hot?
- Chris, Castlemaine

A: *It depends on the varieties of the plants, some love the heat, and some hate it! Bougainvillea love the heat and ferns hate the heat.*

Q: What vegies do I plant now?
– Warren, Castlemaine

A: *Onions, carrots, lettuce, beetroot, baby spinach, early brassicas cauliflower and broccoli. You will need to cover your patch with insect netting to keep the cabbage butterflies away.*

Q: What is a good plant for around our pool in direct sun?
– Will, Castlemaine

A: *Is it a predominately saltwater pool or chlorine? Are the plants likely to be splashed? There are many factors to consider, and it also depends on the look you are after in the area. It is best to pop into ASQ Skydancers or your local nursery with a photo of the area you are planting up.*
- Elisabeth Templeton,
ASQ Garden & Landscape.

We are in the thick of summer now and although it's too hot for your big gardening jobs there is still plenty that can be done!
Now is the time to get stuck into the weeding, mulching and watering. Make sure your vegetables and plants are free of space invading weeds, and add some mulch to your garden beds to improve water retention.

Each week give your veggie patch a feed, apply Powerfeed for Tomatoes & Vegetables to keep your patch at it's best.
Plant your sunflower seeds in a sunny spot and they'll be popping their heads up in no time.
The raspberries should have fruited, give them a prune along with your conifer hedges and bougainvillea once its finished flowering.

Keep an eye on the level of water in your bird baths, and for any pests and diseases.

Vegies to sow

Baby spinach, beetroot, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, early brassicas cauliflower, leeks, lettuce, parsnips, peas, radishes, silverbeet and spring onions. If you are planting ahead, you can sow your next crop of zucchini.

Flowers to grow

Autumn flowering bulbs including crocus and nerines. Ageratum, cyclamen, French marigolds, primulas, alyssum, calceolaria, calendulas, cleome, forget-me-not, Iceland poppies, linaria, lupins, nasturtiums, pansies, schizanthus, snapdragons, stock, sweet peas, verbena and wallflowers.



Sow your carrots to ensure they are ready to enjoy roasted or sautéed in gorgeous Autumn dishes.



Plant your crocus bulbs now for a splash of Autumn colour.

ASQ Skydancers
Garden, Gift & Café

Come and explore the butterfly garden, café, gift shop and extensive nursery.

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Takeaway or outdoor dining only



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