



How does your garden grow?

Get outdoors in the garden and enjoy the autumn colour!



Now is the time to plant your citrus trees.



Plant your bulbs for gorgeous tulips this spring.

The cool autumn mornings have arrived but the soil temperature in our gardens continues to hold its warmth throughout the day. Now is the perfect time to enjoy the colours of the late autumn foliage and get outdoors and plant a few citrus trees.

Citrus trees have plenty of surface roots and are very hungry for nutrients. Before planting build up the soil with heaps of manure, compost and gypsum. It's best not to add fertiliser initially. Hold off until the early spring and summer to give them the best start and a prolific growth period for the first year. Feeding citrus early can cause them to push out new growth, which will get burnt off by the frost. It is best to wait till later in the year to feed your citrus.

If you are in a heavy frosty area such as parts of Castlemaine, citrus can be grown in pots quite happily, protecting them from the cold and keeping them happy over winter.

Over winter you can expect some yellowing in the foliage, this yellowing is usually caused by the cold. You'll see a huge range of citrus at ASQ Skydancers with plenty to choose from, including some of our favourites such as Lisbourne Lemon, Lemonade Lemons and Tahitian Lime.

Over summer, black and yellow caterpillars are often seen on citrus trees. While these caterpillars may eat a few leaves, don't stress if you see them as they become swallowtail butterflies.

Vegies to sow

Beetroot, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflowers, garlic, greens, kale, leeks, lettuce, mustard, onions, pak choy, bok choy and most Asian greens, rocket, silverbeet, spinach and herbs including coriander, parsley, rosemary and mint.

Flowers to plant

Plant your poppies now to enjoy them for spring and summer, violas, pansies, snapdragons, cornflowers, delphiniums, foxgloves, daffodils, tulips, crocus, jonquils, Hyacinths and ranunculus. Currently, flowering plants are camellias, hellebores and piers.

Q&A

Q: I need to move a shrub. When is the best time of year to do this?
- Aimee, Castlemaine

A: Winter is the best time to be shifting your plants as during winter most are in full dormancy.

Q: What vegetables can I plant in Autumn in Central Victoria?
- Drew, Castlemaine

A: Garlic, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, spinach, silverbeet, bok choy, onions, leeks, spring onions, and so much more!

Q: If I take a cutting from plants where is the best place to put them to grow?

A: Place them in a warm sheltered area such as a greenhouse.

Q: Is Autumn a good time to deal with weeds in my lawn?
- Dy, Castlemaine

A: Yes! Before you start to see winter grass trying to come through your lawn you should use a pre germinate herbicide like Oxafert. Always check before you use herbicides to ensure they are safe for your area and variety of turf. Also, there is plenty of moisture in the soil so feel free to pull out weeds as you see them during Autumn.

Q: Are there any flowering shrubs I could plant so I can keep attracting bees now the weather is cooler?
- Mick, Castlemaine

A: There are heaps of options! We recommend Philotheca Wax Flower, Wattles, Grevilleas and Correas. If you need more ideas for your space, visit us at ASQ Skydancers or visit your local independent nursery.

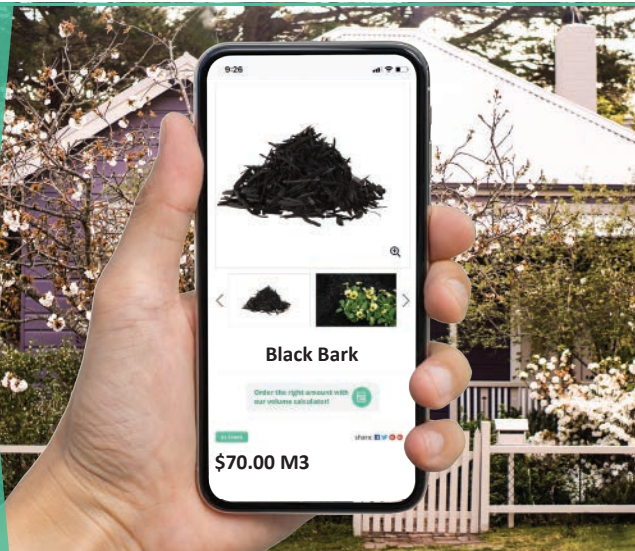
- Elisabeth Templeton,
ASQ Garden & Landscape.

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