

# Gardening

Mount Alexander **LIVING**



## How does your garden grow?

It's time to get planting your summer vegies.



Capsicums make a great addition to stirfrys and summer salads.

Pick a beautiful sunny day and get stuck into the garden, from planning, pruning, and planting, there is plenty to do with Christmas just around the corner, before friends and family start arriving.

Set your veggie patch up for summer success by applying Seasol PowerFeed for Tomatoes & Vegetables, it is a fast acting liquid fertiliser. Mix it up to the colour of light black tea not too strong just like cordial. As a liquid your plants will take it up quickly and it will help pump growth into your veggie patch.

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 Blooming Roses fertiliser. It provides all the essential nutrients to promote strong, healthy growth and an abundance of flowers. If you have rose varieties that only flower once in spring, you can dead head finished flowers now and prune once they've finished flowering. If your garden is home to spring bloomers such as eriostrimon and diosma, give them a trim after they have finished flowering. Hold off until late summer before trimming wisteria.

### Vegies to sow

With the frosty mornings behind us and summer just around the corner, now is the perfect time to plant tomatoes if you haven't done so. We recommend adding Seasol PowerFeed to your watering can when you water your tomatoes in to give them the best start to life. If you haven't planted your vegetables yet, it's time to get cracking! Beans, Beetroot, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Celery, Chili, Cucumber, Eggplant, Globe Artichoke, Leek, Onion, Parsnip, Potato, Pumpkin, Radish, Silver beet, Sweet corn, and Zucchini, to name a few.

### Flowers to plant

Some of our favourite summer flowers include alyssum, foxgloves, impatiens, marigolds, petunias, snapdragons and vincas, just to name a few!



Alyssum add a pretty splash of colour to any garden.

## Q&A

**Q:** What are the best vegies to plant leading into Summer?  
– Betty, Castlemaine

**A:** Ones you enjoy eating, some classic summer vegies for this time of year are capsicums, chillies, corn, cucumber, pumpkins, tomatoes and zucchini, just to name a few!

**Q:** I'm thinking about starting again in my garden with all Natives – is this the best time to start planting?  
– Stan, Castlemaine

**A:** The best time of the year to plant natives in a typical year is spring and autumn. You can plant in summer, but it means you'll have to supplement with water to help establish your plants.

**Q:** I have two large leafy trees in my backyard – the leaves look like they are starting to dry up. Could this be too much water?  
– Greg, Castlemaine

**A:** Possibly, it is hard to say without seeing the leaf. A classic sign of over watering is browning on the very outside of the leaf. Best bring a leaf or photos onto your local independent nursery to get the best advice.

**Q:** What's the best indoor plants for a new home, that don't attract a black bug?  
– Damien, Castlemaine



**A:** All plants have a relationship with bugs, including indoor plants. Keeping your plants more on the dry side will help as most bugs enjoy a damp habitat. Plants that enjoy dry indoor conditions are Devils ivy Epipremnum and Hoyas.

– Lis Templeton  
ASQ Garden & Landscape

## Visit Castlemaine Nursery

Spring is here, drop in and take advantage of our special specials and have a chat to the team about your spring gardening plans at 3 Miners Court, Castlemaine!



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