

Gardening

Mount Alexander **LIVING**



Spring has arrived and now is the perfect time to get out into the garden.

How does your garden grow?

Q&A

Q: When is the best time to aerate my lawn?
- Marie, Castlemaine

A: Now would be a great time to aerate your lawn after a soggy wet winter.

Q: I've heard about protecting plants/crops from extreme weather. What can we use?
- Mel, Castlemaine

A: For protection against the sun, you can use shade cloth. Hessian and geo fabric protect from frost.

Q: Is there anything I should be doing for my fruit trees?
- Harry, Castlemaine

A: Feed your fruit trees with Grow Better all purpose plant food as your trees will need a feed after their winter prune.

Q: Is it okay to mulch my potatoes?
- Aaron, Castlemaine

A: It is best not to mulch potatoes as it will create a habitat for earwigs and slow the soil from warming up.

Q: I have a lot of clover in my garden. What can I use to get this to die off?
- Bree, Castlemaine

A: Firstly, you will need to confirm if it's clover or oxalis (with a bright yellow flower) as they often get confused. Clover is best hand weeded. Oxalis is a bit more work, you'll need to dig up the plant and sieve the soil to remove the small bulbs as they will continue to sprout if you don't remove them from the soil.

- Lis Templeton & Gary Sobey, ASQ Garden & Landscape

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 sunnier 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, it 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 be done. If any plants look untidy, they can be cut back, especially those damaged by winter frosts and make sure to include them when doing your spring feeding to help generate new growth.

Vegies to sow

The beginning of spring is a great time to plant many vegies, including beetroot, capsicums, celery, chives, lettuce, 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!

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Philotheca

This month ASQ Garden & Landscape is celebrating the start of spring with a display of beautiful native plants! Philotheca Profusion and Philotheca Winter Rouge have buds of pink, which open to flat, small starry flowers with five white petals. They are commonly known as wax flowers and are perfect for the low maintenance garden or as a hedge. They require minimal time and water to produce an abundance of flowers. Philotheca Spring Special \$9.95 each for September 2022.



Castlemaine Nursery

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