



Gardening

Mount Alexander

LIVING

How does your garden grow?

Now is the perfect time to get out into the garden and plant your flowers for spring colour, give your lawn a feed and prepare to plant your summer veges.



It's the perfect time to plant your silverbeet.

The weather is getting warmer, flowers are starting to bloom, and fresh foliage is everywhere. Make the most of the longer days by repairing any water damaged driveways or paths and giving your garden and lawn a feed.

There are many flowers and veges that can be planted now, so stock up on seedlings and fill your vegie and herb gardens before the summer salads, picnics, and barbecues start.

October is the best time to feed your lawn to help it recover from the long, cold winter! No matter what type of lawn you have, Sir Walter Fertiliser is a great all-rounder. Come in and see the team at ASQ Garden & Landscape to get expert advice for your lawn, on what to use, and how much you should apply.

If you missed the opportunity to prune back in July/August, you can give your natives, fruit trees, roses and lavender a light prune now. This will help to promote further growth and an abundance of fruit and flowers.

Spring time presents an excellent opportunity to add a liquid plant fertiliser, give your garden a dose for new growth and this will help to rejuvenate your mulch as well!

Vegies to sow

Melbourne Cup Day is the traditional day on the calendar for Castlemaine gardeners to plant out their summer vegie gardens. If you haven't got a plan yet, it's time to get cracking! Sweet corn, beans, beetroot, chives, eggplant, leeks, lettuce, parsley, silver beet and spring onions are some of our favourites, just to name a few. You should wait until the end of the month, when the frosts have finished to plant your capsicums, tomatoes, and zucchinis. If you are going to plant beforehand, you'll want to cover them at night with frost cloth.

Flowers to plant

If you want to add some spring colour to your garden, plant your dianthus, geraniums, lavender, marigolds, petunias and snapdragons! Have you checked out the gorgeous Princess Lavender with its vibrant pink flowers. It is a stunning, low maintenance and very versatile plant.



Lavender makes a wonderful fragrant addition to the garden.

Q&A

Q: I'm about to start planting some potted colour plants in the garden. Should I do something to help the soil?
- Bev, Maldon

A: Most cottage garden flowering plants love a top up of compost, cow manure and mushroom mulch mixed into your garden beds. It'll help rejuvenate your soil.

Q: Can I sow any type of vegetable seed directly into the garden?
- Suzanne, Castlemaine

A: Some vegies prefer direct seed growing such as carrots, beetroot, radish, turnips, corn, sunflowers, pumpkins etc.

Q: Should I net my vegetables to stop pest insects or will that stop the bugs etc.
- Marilyn, Castlemaine

A: If you have a good balance of good and bad insects you shouldn't have to worry too much. Try a combination of netting and attracting beneficial insects by planting host/companion plants around your vegie garden. eg: lady bugs love dill and do a great job at keeping the numbers of aphids down.

Q: Which variety of Lemon Tree is best for the Central Vic area?
- Mel, Newstead



A: You are in a very chilly part of the region! For an abundant lemon tree I would generally recommend planting in a generous sized pot. Something like a half wine barrel is perfect as you can screw casters onto the bottom, then move to a protected spot over winter. The three most popular varieties are Myer, Eureka and Lisbon. My personal experience says that Lisbons seem to be the most cold tolerant but they have a much thicker pith but have a wonderful flavour.

- Elisabeth Templeton,
ASQ Garden & Landscape

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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!



www.asq.net.au | Where your great outdoors begin!
a 3 Miners Court, Castlemaine (Cnr Langslow & Martin Streets)
p 03 5479 5500 | e castlemaine@asq.net.au |  

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