



# How does your garden grow?

Get your soil right to enjoy a gorgeous array of fruit and vegies.



Now is the perfect time to plant your raspberries.



Hellebores add a splash of colour to your winter garden.

Winter is the perfect time for establishing your bare root stock, with a large selection of roses, ornamentals and fruit trees in various sizes arriving over the next few weeks. ASQ Skydancers has a great variety of bare root roses stock available now and ready for planting.

When planting, dig a hole that is wide and not too deep. Add some organic matter to your holes, such as organic compost and a well-rotted manure. After your plant is in its hole, check and make sure your plant is sitting no deeper than the soil mark on the stem. The graft or bud unions on your bare root stock must be above the soil. Backfill with soil and water in to settle the soil around the roots. No need to add any fertiliser as the plants are dormant, wait until early spring then fertilise to help encourage new growth.

If you are looking to add some colour to your garden to brighten up those winter days, consider planting some azaleas, camellias and hellebores! These stunning plants will display gorgeous colour throughout the cooler months.

Top up mulch on your vegie patches, herb gardens and ornamental beds. Bark and mulch are great for weed suppression at this time of year. Add mulch after watering the garden bed, to a depth of about 50mm.

**Vegies to sow**

You can plant many winter vegies now, including broad beans, cabbage, lettuce, rhubarb, onions, radish, turnip, peas and garlic. It's also time to plant new season berries such as raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, silvanberries, and currants.

**Flowers to plant**

Now is a great time to plant azaleas, camellias, daphnes, hellebores, liriopes, stock, cornflowers and flax. Plant your annuals such as pansies, violas, polyanthus, primulas, bellis and calendulas.

## Q&A

**Q:** Is it safe to put all my weeds in the compost bin, or are there some I should throw out?

– Annie, Castlemaine

**A:** There are some you should not include in your home compost, such as perennial running weeds like kikuyu. Also avoid adding any weeds that are from a bulb, especially oxalis and onion weed! As for the other weeds, if you are running a hot compost, there should be enough heat to kill them off, so they won't re-sprout once you spread your compost out.

**Q:** I need to transplant a large native from a pot to the ground. Do I cut it back?

– Mick, Castlemaine

**A:** Whatever you do, don't transplant now as it's a bit too cold! Once Spring arrives or after the last frost is a great time to transplant natives from the pot. It really depends on what variety it is as to if you should cut it back. However, most natives respond very well to pruning.

**Q:** Are newspapers good for mulching plants. Should I use anything else with them?

- Petra, Castlemaine

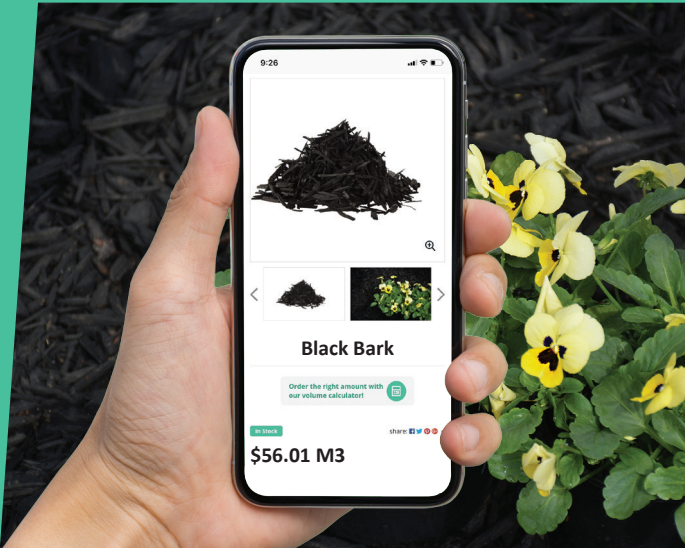
**A:** Thanks for your question, Petra! Newspapers are great for mulch. You can lay down a few sheets as a base, then cover it with another mulch on top such a bush bark to help it break down further, suppress weeds and retain moisture!

- Elisabeth Templeton, ASQ Garden & Landscape.

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