

Gardening



How does your garden grow?

Autumn is harvest time! Enjoy your fresh pears and apples straight from the tree.

Q&A

Q: Should I feed my indoor plants?
– Val, Castlemaine

A: Most are tropical and love to be fed frequently, liquid fertiliser is fantastic for indoor plants.

Q: When do I dig up potatoes, some of the leaves are turning brown is this okay? – Marg, Castlemaine

A: Now is the time to harvest. Remember to keep them in a dark, dry and airy cupboard.

Q: My tomatoes plants have grown very large, should I prune them?
– Agatha, Castlemaine

A: They will be finishing up with the first frost, so I wouldn't stress about pruning your tomatoes this late in the season.

Q: Should I be getting some winter veggies ready to plant now?
– Sonya, Castlemaine

A: Yes! Yes! Yes!

Q: I have little flying bugs in the soil of my indoor plant. What should I do?
– Carrie, Castlemaine

A: These are called fungus gnats. Make a solution of pyrethrum in a bucket and dunk the pot into the diluted mix and hold down until bubbles stop rising. You may need to do this several times to kill the larva. A good preventative is to let the soil layer dry out frequently as the laves cannot survive in a dry environment. You also try putting pebbles on as the top layer in your pots. If they are really bad and keep coming back, consider repotting and removing as much soil as possible.

- Elisabeth Templeton,
ASQ Garden & Landscape.

Shortening days are a sure sign that the year is moving on, yet there is plenty of heat sticking around in March so keep up the watering. Autumn is harvest time for most deciduous tree fruits, so enjoy your harvested apples, pears, figs, quinces, late peaches, and plums.

Honestly, now is the best time to plant up your garden as it gives plants a good six months to settle in before we get hit with the hot and dry weather again.

Before you get too excited, it's time to do the hard work and get your soil ready.

Soil is so important, it is going to hold onto water and provide the required nutrients to all of your plants. You can do one of two things when it comes to soil, you can improve the soil you have or bring soil in new soil. Most people in our area will have heavy clay soils. You can improve these soils with a bit of hard work by adding gypsum and compost to break up the structure.

After composting your soil, you can add mulch on top of your garden beds as it retains moisture and

regulates soil temperature. When choosing a bark or mulch visit an independent nursery, they'll be able to recommend the products for your gardens specific needs and work out how much your garden needs, as a thickness of 50mm is recommended.

Autumn is an opportune time to feed the whole garden. Growbetter's Organic Fertiliser is an excellent all-rounder fertiliser with a slow and gentle action so it won't damage your plant's roots and it's safe for all plants, including your vegetables and fruit trees.

Veggies to sow

Veggies that can be planted now include broad beans, beetroot, brussel sprouts, carrot, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, parsley, shallots, silver beet, spinach and turnips.

Flowers to plant

You can create a gorgeous spring display in your garden by planting now. It's time to plant your spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils, freesias, ixias, sparaxis, crocus, ranunculi, jonquils and hyacinths. All in stock now and ready to grow!



Put the work into your soil to grow great veggies and enjoy beautiful flowers come spring.



Add Freesias to your garden for a splash of colour and fragrance.

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