

An earthen vase, held a bouquet simple crocuses at the street corner in the downtown of the city, around the corner, down the block on the way to school, a bit of color shining through the urban tableau reminding us of beauty amidst the clutter of daily life - by Raymond A. Foss

Spring Seasonal Notes

Winter has finally released its icy grip on Melbourne and with a hint of warmth things are starting to move in the garden. Profuse colours, perfumes and rapid growth. This is spring!

Control is the issue - control growth, weeds, bugs and all manner of pathogens. This is a very busy season.



Cleaning

By getting on top of the garden in winter, having done general cleaning and pruning, we are well positioned to harness the burgeoning spring growth.



Pruning

We see the benefits of our winter pruning as roses prepare for the Melbourne Cup, the trees and shrubs profuse with new growth, all moving to the direction we projected.

Buxus will have 80% of their season growth in spring and it is time to get those string lines out again to ensure the dips and troughs are filled. It's simply time to neaten those French cuts, topiary balls and ground cover edges.

As trees and shrubs finish flowering, prune to allow 6 months for the plants to regrow next season's flowering wood. This is essential for Camellias, Gordonias, Luculias, Forsythias etc. With the copious growth, branches again sag, so some supplementary crown lifting is also required.

Remove flowers from silver foliated plants to prevent plants breaking up. Tip prune Azaleas. Nip the tips of new growth on all plants.

Mulch



It is still not too late to mulch if we missed the winter opportunity, and fresh mulch will certainly help suppress those weeds.

Fertilisation



We can now invest in the application of nitrogenous based fertilisers knowing the plants are able to uptake this foliage making element.

All flowering plants are given high doses of potassium. Apply Epsom Salts to Gardenias that are developing yellow leaves.

Similarly, natives with yellowing leaves are treated with an iron supplement.

Pests & Diseases



For those who took preventative winter measures there is a welcomed respite of several weeks before voracious garden pests chew and suck their way through the leaves, flowers and roots in your garden.

In particular, watch for mildew, black spot, mite, psyllid, gall, lace bug, cockchafer, and thrips.

Hold-up spraying aphids as their predators are usually 7-10 days delayed and they may just control your problem with their own munch and crunch.

gardenridge
living architecture

ph. 9830 6400

47/125 Highbury Road, Burwood

info@gardenridge.com.au

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Weeds

The only respite Spring brings is that winter grass will die out and oxalis can be effectively sprayed as it begins to flower. Otherwise the news is all bad, massive weed control is needed.



Watering

We now activate our irrigation systems with one additional deep watering per week in September, graduating to two per week by November.

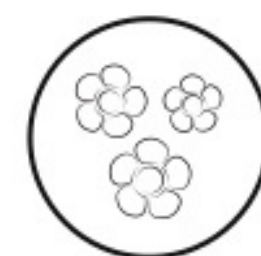
Perhaps a service is due, please speak to your crew team leader if you have any concerns regarding irrigation.



Lawns

Mow and edge, mow and edge, mow and edge. Why not fertilise to produce even more grass to mow and edge?

Consider de-thatching the warm season lawns such as Kikuyu and Buffalo. Weed and feed.



Colour & Munch

This is the main season to plant vegies, herbs and flowering annuals. From the end of September to Melbourne cup is the best window for planting seed & seedlings, after that use more advanced plants. Check below for what you can plant this Spring.

Zucchini, Wombok, Tomato, Sweet Corn, Squash, Spring Onion, Spinach, Snow peas, Silverbeet, Shallot, Rhubarb (crowns), Radish, Pumpkin, Potato, Peas, Parsnip, Pak Choy, Okra, Lettuce, Leek, Kohl rabi, Kale, Eggplant, Cucumber, Chilli, Celery, Carrot, Capsicum, Bok choy, Beetroot, Beans, NZ spinach, Onion & Strawberry.



Rocket, Parsley, Oregano, Mint, Garlic, Fennel, Dill, Coriander, Chives, Basil, Thyme, Sage, Borage, Tarragon, Horseradish, Lemon balm, Rosemary, Sweet marjoram, Chamomile, Cat mint, Chervil, Curry plant, Lemon grass, Lemon verbena, Penny royal & Watercress.



Alyssum, Aster, Begonia, Celosia, Californian poppy, Cleome, Cosmos Dahlia, Delphinium, Dianthus, Gaillardia, Impatiens, Lisianthus, Lobelia, Lupins, Marigold, Nasturtium, Petunia, Phlox, Portulaca, Salvia, Scabiosa, Snapdragon, Sweet pea, Verbena, Vinca, Zinnia.



Who?

If you need help navigating this busy time in the garden, please contact Adam Groves, Garden Maintenance Manager at Gardenridge Pty Ltd.

maintenance@gardenridge.com.au

or by phone,

ph. 0417 142 507



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