



Tasmanian Garden Group

ABN: 292 645 71427



March 2024

Dear TGG Members,



It's time to reactivate your gardening enthusiasm and immerse yourself in the pleasures of smelling fragrances, tasting freshly-grown produce and tidying your garden and pots. Why not visit your local nursery for little gems to enliven your garden, front-door pots or balcony? Please ensure that you plant your spring-blooming bulbs by May.

I love March when crunchy, fresh apples and pears come into season again along with blackberries, blueberries, plums and raspberries. This is our last month to enjoy delicious fresh summer nectarines and peaches, so make haste and indulge.

I'm looking forward to day trips visiting various rural areas and towns to see the autumnal delights they offer and to ensure that their cafes are keeping up their standards! (Any excuse will do!) I hope that now the weather is cooler, you are enjoying being in your garden again and getting it ready for winter bloom with vibrant annuals and for spring with stunning bulbs.

Don't forget to put the **events on the last page into your diary** to ensure that you don't miss out on something new or to enjoy yet again. Most especially, there are glorious dahlia shows to visit.

Cheers for now, *Heather Pryor*

Timely Reminders for Your March Autumn Garden

- **The end of March** is a good composting time, as many plants are dying off for winter. A plastic garbage bin which has holes drilled into the base makes a good compost bin. Keep the lid on to reduce flies, and layer or mix in green clippings and brown leaves with some blood and bone. **Trim your perennials** and pop the trimmings in the compost. Begin **raking any autumn leaves** and enjoy mixing them into your compost as well.
- Wait until the end of June to **prune your roses, apples and stone fruit trees**.
- But now is a good time to **feed your roses** with some rose fertiliser (such as *Sudden Impact for Roses* and liquid seaweed) as well as regular dead-heading.
- **Fertilise your bearded irises** now with rose fertiliser (as they like an alkaline soil) to ensure that you have good spring bloom and encourage increase (new plants) on the rhizomes. You can use *Sudden Impact for Roses* on your bearded irises.
- Now is the time to **take softwood and hardwood cuttings**, such as grapevines.
- Move any **frost-tender potted succulents** under the eaves, near a northern wall or somewhere they are more protected.
- **Frost** occurs from late autumn to early spring when our nights are cold, clear and still. Regular applications of **Seasol Gold or a seaweed fertiliser** every two–three weeks will help protect your plants against frost and cold weather by building stronger cell structures in the leaves and stems.
- **Revitalise any tired soil** with *Seasol Liquid Compost* which is a soil conditioner. It's so easy to use and no digging! Just mix two caps in a 9L watering can. You can even buy a hose-on pack and make life even easier!
- **Ornamentals to plant now:** chrysanthemum, cineraria, cornflower, delphinium, hollyhock, Iceland poppy, Japanese windflowers, sweet peas, wallflower.

Your March Vegie Garden



- **Early March only, sow seeds** of beetroot (harvest in 8–10 weeks), carrot and parsnip.
- Dig your summer **potatoes** as the tops die down but leave the tubers to dry out before bagging them. However, plant winter potatoes now (early, frost-free districts only) and green manure crops.
- Once your **onions** are dry, dig out and string them up to dry the roots and for the skin to go papery. When dry, they can be hung up for later use.
- **Trim your citrus** of any twiggy, non-productive growth. Major pruning should be done in spring.
- Refrain from **picking your pumpkins** until the first light frost, but no later than that.



- **Save the seeds from your favourite vegetables**, especially beans and tomatoes. Let your beans go plump and the pods quite brown before picking and removing the seeds. For tomatoes, put them in a dish to go overripe, then put them in a sieve and rinse under a tap to remove the pith. Spread the seeds onto a paper towel so that they are well spaced. They will dry and, next October, you only have to pull the paper towel apart and plant it along with the seed. Drying only takes a day. Store seeds in a paper envelope, clearly marked with the variety and a note about October.
- Don't forget **to also save seed** from your best quality broccoli, cabbages, capsicum, carrots, cauliflowers, chard and silverbeet. But avoid keeping seed from a variety that bolted to seed early as the bolting gene within it will be passed on to the seeds. Lettuce seed will be good for 5 years.

- Collect any **onion/shallot seedheads** (dry in a clean dish in the shade and shake out the seed. The seed will only be good for 2 years.)
- **Adding too much lime** (or dolomite or limestone) to your soil can cause problems by actually impoverishing the soil. About three weeks after applying lime, you need to add in a generous amount of compost and some cow or sheep manure. Lime can live in soil for several years.
- **Plant vegie seedlings** increases the time to harvest by three to four weeks. Plant now seedlings of: mini-cauliflower, late leeks, loose leaf or winter lettuce (cos), shallot and spring onion, parsley, potato (only in early, frost-free districts), silverbeet and green manure crops. Plant garlic cloves now.
- Plant **vegie seeds**: Asian cabbage and root crops, broadbeans (plant 8cm deep), spring and salad onion, English spinach, Japanese turnip. Watering plants and seedlings with liquid seaweed promotes root growth. Apply weekly but use a mild mixture. Be careful though, because root crops, such as carrots, are far better planted directly into the soil as they hate being transplanted. Also be careful not to over-fertilise root crops as you will end up with lush leaves and small roots.
- **Be water-wise**: Collect water from your garden shed to use on your vegies. Incorporate moisture retentive coco-peat into the soil. **Mulch** with composted garden or grass clippings or sugarcane mulch.
- **Late March, sow seeds** of Asian leaf and root vegetables, broadbeans, lettuce (put seeds in the fridge 2 days beforehand to chill), spring and salad onions.



Finding it Hard to Peel Hard-Boiled Eggs?

Many of us struggle when it comes to peeling a hard-boiled egg.

Try this tip: Submerge your egg in a bowl

Fill a medium-size china bowl with room-temperature water. Working one egg at a time, submerge the egg in water and crack against the side or bottom of the bowl. It'll be easier to slip off the shell. Dry with a paper towel.

Sowing and Growing Onions in Autumn or Winter



A Step-by-step guide:

1. First, choose your type of onion. If you plan to store them, brown onions will last longer than white or red ones.
2. You can sow seed directly into the vegie garden or large pot. If so, jump to point 4 below. (If you are using a pot, select one that is at least 50cm in diameter and around 30cm deep. This should accommodate 10 to 15 onion plants.)
3. Fill your punnet/s with seed-raising mix and water it lightly.
4. Using a twig or old pencil, make 6 to 8 shallow holes about 1/2 to 1cm deep.
5. Pop in 2 seeds per hole, cover with more seed-raising mix (not garden soil) and water gently. (Onion seed loses its viability quickly, so only keep it for a maximum of two years.) Fresh seed is best.
6. Locate the punnet in morning sun where it has sun for 2–3 hours only, then has shade.
7. Keep lightly moist and expect the onions to germinate in about 10 days.
8. Continue to keep the seedlings moist and water with half-strength seaweed fertiliser weekly (avoid a nitrogen-rich fertiliser).
9. When the seedlings are about 10cm high, get ready to plant them into your vegie garden (or large pot on your balcony). (Note: If you buy punnets of seedlings, choose ones that are not too over-developed as they will rush to flower quickly.)
10. Onions love sun and rich soil. You can enrich your soil with home-made compost or buy a bag from your local nursery and add in a little dolomite lime (to sweeten the soil).
11. With your trowel, make grooves through the soil in rows about 20cm apart and 5cm deep.
12. Space each seedling 10–15cm apart and just lie them onto one side of the groove. Then backfill. They do not need to be pushed upright as they will slowly stand up by themselves to reach the sun.
13. Keep the growing seedlings lightly moist and water them weekly with seaweed fertiliser.
14. They will be ready to harvest in about 6–8 months when the stems start to bend over or flop. Try to harvest the onions before they get to the flowering stage. Any that have flowered will not store well, so use those first.
15. Brush off any soil, lightly rinse with the hose and let them dry in a warm spot. Then tie them in bunches and hang them in a dry, shady location such as your garage for a few weeks. Then you can trim off any leaves and store them.



Travelling to Victoria?

Tuberous Begonia & Fuchsia Show

691 Ashbourne Rd, Ashbourne via Woodend.
Parking available. Every weekend from February to April 2024. 10 am – 4 pm. Free entry. Hundreds of Tuberous Begonias, Fuchsias, Peony Roses, Hydrangeas, Pacific Coast Iris, Cusonia, Amorphophallis and climbers like *Gloriosa Rothschildiana*, Snail Vines, & more.
Contact Jesse 0419 002 651 or email: info@whitehousenursery.com.au

Shepparton & District Dahlia Club Show

23 and 24 March at Katamatite Hall, 4 Beek St, Katamatite. 11 to 4pm Saturday and 10 to 3pm Sunday. Entry \$5. Children free. Contact Rodney 0488 984 611

Sweet Pea Time

About 15 March (to the end of June) is the time to organise your sweet peas. To speed up germination, soak the pea seeds in warm water for about 4 hours before sowing.

Wherever you plant your sweet peas, whether in a large pot or garden, you'll need a tripod or trellis for them to climb. That is, unless you want them to cascade over the sides of the pot. Choose a sunny spot.

Incorporate some cow manure, a cup of lime and a cup of complete garden fertiliser into well drained soil. Just push the pea into the ground and water. In 3–4 days, water again. Once the seeds appear (about a week), keep them lightly moist.

St David's Cathedral Blooming Church

The 2024 theme was Oasis. Another lovely experience.



Above: Norma Gordon OAM with part of her creative display of a teddy bears' picnic near the St David's Cathedral altar.



Above: Large display by the Hobart Horticultural Society Floral Art Section.



Above: Display by Claremont Garden Club.



Left: A magnificent display using the font by Government House, Hobart. The blue flowers at the base in an oval shape represent an oasis with hot, desert colours seen in the decoration above.



Left: Display by Hobart Horticultural Society. **Right:** Display by Kingston District Garden Club using a clear blue, water-like vase.



Spring Bulb Flowering Times

As spring bulbs flower at differing times throughout the spring season, it's time to think about planting to make the most of spring.

- **For early spring bloom**, grape hyacinths (*Muscari*) in gorgeous shades of blue combine well with pristine white snowflakes (*Leucojum aestivum*); or enjoy the various tones of snowdrops (*Galanthus*), jonquils, along with anemones, lachenalia and ixia. Spring Stars (*Ipheion uniflorum* also known as *Triteleia uniflorum*) are a frost hardy, bulbous perennial. They are a late winter to spring flowering bulb that is very hardy and will produce dainty green foliage that is topped with a profusion of lavender, blue or white flowers.
- **A little later blooming** in mid-season are hyacinths and daffodils (although various forms will flower throughout the season). Also English and Spanish bluebells, freesias, tritonia, *Brodiaea* 'Queen Fabiola' (see right) and sparaxis.
- **Mid- to late spring blooming** tulips look wonderful combined with ranunculi with their full, blousy, colourful heads.
- **Late blooming** and even into early summer are Chinchinchee, Arab's Eye, dwarf gladioli and Dutch iris.



Above: *Lachenalia aloides* or Soldier Boys.
Below left: *Galanthus woronowii*.
Below right: *Brodiaea* 'Queen Fabiola'.



Left: Ranunculi come in a wide range of glorious colours from pure white through sensuous pastels to vivid, bold reds and purples.



Tips With Bulbs

- **Hyacinths and tulips** need to be chilled before planting, so pop them in the crisper in a paper bag for six weeks prior to planting.
- **Plant bulbs in groups** with at least three in each clump. Other than tulips, plant your bulbs in full sun. Using colourful pots to accentuate the colour of your bulb choice each year is effective as you can move your pots so that you can enjoy the pleasure of them or to show off to guests as they arrive at your door.
- Generally, plant your bulbs **three times as deep as the height of the bulb**. Position the pointed end of the bulb upward. However, anemones and ranunculi are different and have a flat top with spiky corms that should be placed downward.
- **Feed your bulbs weekly** with a seaweed mixed with a general liquid fertiliser (such as *Aquasol*) to boost flowering endurance and flower size. Keep them only lightly moist and don't overwater.
- **Leave the foliage to completely brown off** in summer before lifting so that the bulbs can store nutrients (as starch and 'sugar') in themselves in preparation for next year's display.

Autumn is a Key Time for Growing Better Liliiums



Above: Oriental Liliium 'Robert Swanson'.

Asiatics - Although beautiful, their disadvantage is that they have no perfume. However, this group has multiple flowers on each stem and the colours are rich and varied, and last well as a cut flower.

Longiflorum or Trumpet - Also known as Christmas Lilies, as this is their main flowering season. These make excellent cut flowers and have a lovely perfume.

Longiflorum Asiatics - A hybrid of the Longiflorum and Asiatic types, they are called LAs for short. These flowers have a strong perfume which makes for a wonderful cut flower.

Oriental - This variety often have very dramatic, wavy petals with a light perfume. They are also very popular as cut flowers.

Oriental lilies prefer a cooler, more sheltered position and require protection from hot sun and hot winds. All taller varieties need staking to support the stems from our gusty winds. Stake the stems when they reach 10cm high.

Do not allow the bulbs to dry out at any time. This is most important, as lilies do not have a fully dormant cycle like many other bulbs. Plant in free draining soil or potting mix with some sand or perlite added. Once planted, the new shoot appears quickly. Protect it from snail attack and avoid digging around a clump of liliiums as you may damage their fibrous roots or the bulb.

Fertilising your liliium: To keep plants growing strongly, mulch around the base of each plant with well-rotted cow manure. Apply the mulch immediately after planting then top up mulches in summer. While liliiums don't need lots of added fertiliser, they grow and flower best with regular liquid feeding, or a handful of complete fertiliser and a blood and bone fertiliser applied in spring and early summer and in late winter.

Apply liquid fertiliser once plants are setting buds (i.e. when small buds appear in the apex of the leaves) to help keep lower foliage green. Fertilise the bulbs again after they have finished flowering to promote flowering the following year.



Above: Species *Lilium nevadense* (orange) has a demure, delicate beauty while *L. nepalense* has bold contrasting lime green and burgundy tones exhibited at a Claremont Flower Show Group Summer show.



Water deeply once or twice a week while the plant is growing (spring to summer) but cut back on the amount of watering as the flowering stem begins to die back (autumn to winter) as they dislike sitting in wet soil.

Once the flowers have finished, they can be cut back to remove the seedheads, but leave the leafy stem uncut while it

Left: Dwarf Asiatic liliium 'Tiny Athlete'.



Left: Pristine white Christmas Lily (*Lilium longiflorum*).

is green and generating food for the large bulb at its base. Only cut liliiums back when the stem has turned brown.

Lift the 'dormant' bulbs every few years in autumn to rejuvenate the soil. Replant without delay as liliiums dislike being out of the soil.

Propagating Liliiums

Liliiums can be left to grow and multiply in the ground over many years. They are easy to propagate by lifting and dividing an established clump in autumn or early winter.

Bulblets - On the main underground bulb small bulblets or 'baby' bulbs will grow, forming their own roots. Remove these and pot into premium media which will have good drainage. Put them 2–3cm deep in a pot and locate it in an area where they won't dry out until the following spring. When new plants will form and they'll be ready for planting.

Bulbils - Not to be confused with bulblets, these grow in the axils of leaves, especially on Tiger Lilies (*L. lancifolium*, *L. leichtlinii*) or hybrids such as 'Tiger Babies'. Twist these off when the main plant begins to die down. Plant them about 20mm deep in a seed tray. They'll form leaves by spring and will flower in 2–3 years.

Scales - The main bulb is made up of individual scales which can be twisted off. Each scale will produce a new plant.

Right: Species *Lilium leichtlinii* showing dark bulbils on stems. If not removed, they will drop off to quickly form new bulbs



To do this, break off a few scales and place in a clip-lock plastic bag with some hormone rooting powder. Shake it up and then add a handful or two of pre-moistened sphagnum moss or peat moss. Mix it again so that the scales are covered and leave for a couple of months until bulbs form.



Above left: Trumpet type *Lilium* 'Triumphator'.

Above right: Asiatic lily 'Forever Susan'.

Left: One of the many show benches at the wonderful Claremont Flower Show Group Lilium and Rose summer shows – always a 'must visit' in your diary.



March 21 2024 is World Poetry Day

Poetry is a beautiful form of expression. No other type of literature creates such a plethora of feelings and emotions as the abstraction of poetry. The earliest poetry is believed to have surfaced with the "Epic of Gilgamesh" some time during 2000 BC, but it is likely that poetry existed even before the spread of literacy. Different types of poetry have trended during different eras and undergone transformations. From sonnets to rap lyrics, the core purpose of poetry remains the same: to explore the human condition and invoke emotion through words. Poetry resonates with the existential dilemmas of mankind, exhuming ideas from deep within.

World Poetry Day is celebrated every year on March 21, celebrating a linguistic expression that people from all cultures can identify with. Poetry can be found in the history of every nation and brings us together under shared values and common humanity.

Don't allow this fine opportunity to slip past you and fellow club members, to indulge in some poetry. Consider reading some aloud or asking others to write some. Why not allow yourself to write some poetry? It does not have to rhyme. Could your club have a little competition about writing poetry about flowers, plants, gardens, gardeners or gardening?

Here's a sample to start you off:

Seed-Time and Harvest

I'll plant and water, sow and weed,
Till not an inch of earth shows brown,
And take a vow of each small seed
To grow to greenness and renown:
And then some day you'll pass my way,
See gold and crimson, bell and star,
And catch my garden's soul, and say:
"How sweet these cottage gardens are!"

– Edith Nesbit



Fertilising in Early Autumn

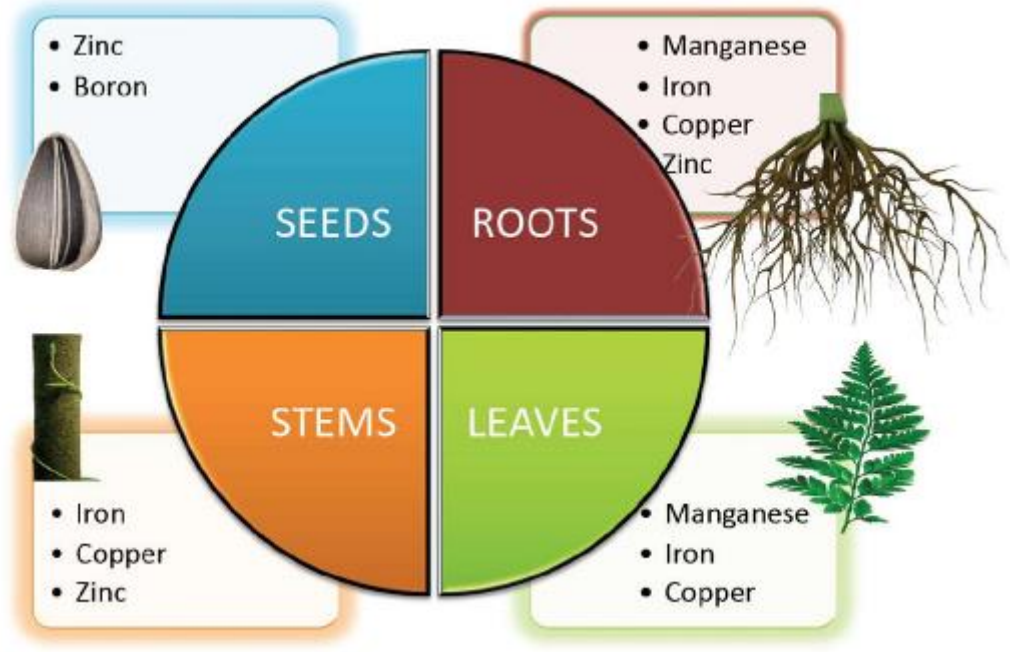
I know that I should feed my garden in early autumn and spring, but which fertiliser do I use?



The long-spined sea urchins (see left) are an ocean pest and a threat to the abalone and rock lobster industries as they are decimating reefs along Tasmania's east coast.

Long-spined sea urchins are harvested for the overseas market by True South Seafood at Electrona for their roe. However, the roe is only 5 per cent of the urchin and the other 95 per cent is waste and that totals approximately 450 tonne of urchins per year. To deal with this, True South Seafood has imported a machine from China to crush the urchins before heating and sterilising the mixture to produce a powder which has been turned into fertiliser.

A team of researchers is testing the fertiliser made from these sea urchins on plants for home and agricultural use. The fertiliser has been found to be rich in a lot of important plant **micro-nutrients**, such as boron, calcium and zinc, and is relatively high in nitrogen.



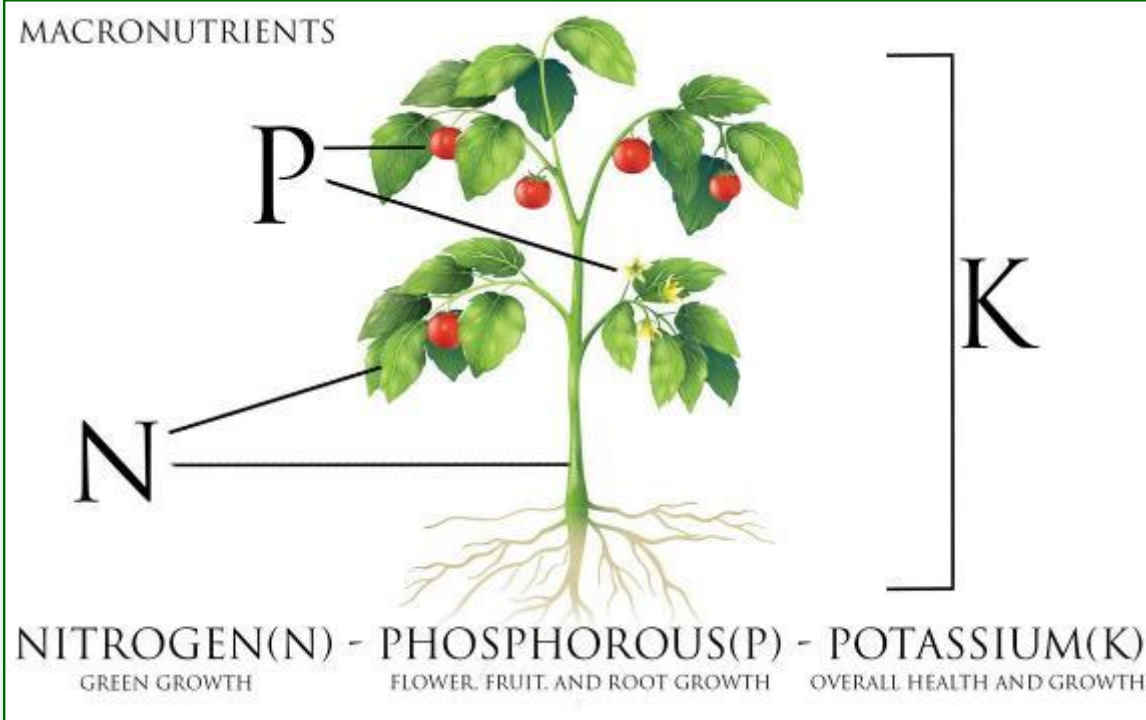
Left: Consider this table of **micronutrients** and the aspects of the plant that is enhanced by them. Image by encyclopedia.pub.

While that long-spined sea urchin fertiliser is not yet available to us, what fertilisers could you use?

There is quite a range of specialised fertilisers available at your local nursery, such as citrus, camellia/azalea, rose, orchids, lawn food which are specifically formulated for those plants. However, other than native plants, most of

these fertilisers can readily be used on any other plant in your garden if used according to the guidelines on the container.

Right: Consider this table of **macronutrients** and the aspects of the plant that is enhanced by them. Image by agrimate.org.



Fertilisers are made up of a combination of three **macronutrients**: nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (see the table at right). Nitrogen helps the growth of the plants themselves while phosphorus will promote a healthy root system and the potassium is important for overall

health and growth and will help produce lots of flowers and fruit. Experts tell us that a fertiliser that contains plenty of potassium will produce sweeter fruit.

Slow-release fertilisers release their nutrients slowly over a period of months. Initially, there is fast-acting food on the outside, then the pellet breaks down slowly to release the other nutrients. They are very suitable for potted plants.

Faster feeding fertilisers are granular and sold as complete or general fertilisers. The guidelines usually state to feed at the rate of a handful per square metre and release all their nutrients over a short period. These are a cheaper option than slow-release and very suitable for everything in the general garden other than natives.

All our **native plants** are sensitive to phosphorus, so it is wise to only use fertilisers specifically formulated for them.

Soluble or liquid fertilisers are ideal for every plant, especially indoor plants, vegetables, annuals and perennials. Standard liquid seaweed like *Seasol* doesn't contain a lot of macronutrients, however, it does contain trace elements and is an excellent soil conditioner which helps roots to take up nutrients more easily.



Seasol PowerFeed is a relatively balanced fertiliser that has all the benefits of liquid seaweed with added nutrients to also feed your plants. The N:P:K ratio in PowerFeed is 12:1.4:7, so it is high in nitrogen that helps to produce more green growth.

For some plants, it is wise to only use half the strength recommended on the Seasol PowerFeed container. This is especially the case for orchids, ferns and natives. Even fruiting plants like strawberries prefer half strength. This is especially the case for strawberries that are grown in pots because PowerFeed is natural and won't leave salt deposits in the potting mix that will have to be flushed out.

Watering in fertiliser is most important. If it's going to rain, then put on a hat and give your lawn some granular fertiliser to save you having to water. Otherwise, always water in any fertiliser so that it doesn't sit on leaves or burn sensitive little roots at the top of the soil.

Organic fertilisers, such as blood and bone, fish emulsion, seaweed emulsion or pellets (such as Neutrog's *Seamungus*), cow manure and chicken pellets are milder than chemical fertilisers, although they are a little smelly before they are watered in. They are wonderful for the soil and plants in encouraging micro-organisms to develop and for strengthening roots and cells in the leaves to cope with the changes and stresses of the weather.

Planning a BBQ or Picnic?



Use muffin or cupcake cases to keep bugs out of your drink

Make insects landing in your drink a thing of the past by using muffin cases as makeshift lids. Picture the scene: you're just about to take a sip of your delicious, chilled picnic drink, only to be surrounded by pesky wasps and flies. Simply turn the case upside down and poke a paper straw through the middle and sip away. (Photo by Kelli Foster)

Freeze grapes for a cool snack

Frozen grapes make a brilliantly refreshing sorbet-like snack in the heat and are healthy too. Simply put a bunch of grapes in the freezer overnight and pop into an Esky for your picnic. They can even be used as an ice cube replacement in drinks. They also work really well with dark chocolate squares for an easy dessert.

Liven up your potato salad

Potato salad needs a dressing that has a hint of acidity and punch to it, otherwise the whole dish becomes too heavy. While many people stick with mayonnaise and white wine vinegar, try adding a dollop of crème fraîche, yoghurt or even a splash of vinegar with diced gherkins or pickles.

Tie sandwiches closed with a pretty ribbon or string

Messy sandwiches that fall apart as soon as you pack them into your picnic hamper are no fun for anybody. With that in mind, use colourfast ribbon to tie them together so that they stay closed.

Use greaseproof paper rather than cling wrap

For a sustainable alternative to cling wrap, use reusable greaseproof paper and keep your picnics plastic-free. Cling wrap can make some sandwiches soggy, whereas wax paper will keep any moisture at bay and can also be used to ensure fruit and cheese stay fresh.

Create a themed picnic

Struggling to decide what to serve at your picnic? In that case, why not choose a theme? Choose a country, a region or a movie or a colour scheme and plan your food and drinks around it. Think about



a strawberry pink event or lavender-blues. Your friends will love it and it will give you a chance to decorate the event prettily and try experimenting with new dishes and flavours from a different culture. If you choose a colour theme, you could even ask the attendees to wear something that is that colour.

Don't forget the aftermath

Pack garbage bags to make BBQ/picnic clean-up easy and to ensure you don't end up running to the nearest bin multiple times throughout the day. Recycle as much of your rubbish as possible and make the effort to place all your dirty crockery in a separate bag to keep your picnic hamper or backpack spotless. If you do this, you will be grateful for it when you get home after a long day.

Accompany your picnic with chutney

"A fridge without chutney is like a car without a spare tyre," BBC TV chef Valentine Warner once said. Why not try making this different chutney recipe?



Carrot and Almond Chutney Recipe

A tangy chutney, with flaked almonds, fresh ginger root, grated carrots and citrus. Serve with cold meats, cheese or just spread on sandwiches.

Makes a 1.5kg. Serves: 6

Preparation Time: 10 mins Cooking Time: 35 mins

Ingredients:

- 1.25 kg carrots, grated
- 3 onions, peeled and grated
- 125 g fresh ginger root, shredded
- 250 ml white wine vinegar
- 2 large lemons, grated rind and juice only
- 150 ml water
- 400 g raw or light brown sugar
- 4 tbsp honey
- 2 tbsp coriander seeds, freshly ground
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1 tsp ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1½ tsp cayenne pepper
- 3 tbsp flaked almonds

Step-by-step method:

1. Put all the ingredients except the almonds in a glass bowl. Mix well, cover and leave to stand overnight.
2. The next day, transfer the mixture to the preserving pan. Bring to the boil, then simmer for 20 minutes. Raise the heat and boil hard for 12–15 minutes, until most of the liquid has evaporated and the mixture is thick.
3. Stir almonds into the pan.
4. Ladle into the hot sterilised jars, then seal and label.
5. The chutney will be ready in one month as it improves with keeping.



Feeding My Potted Plants

Neutrog fertilisers have published a helpful feeding guide when thinking about how much fertiliser to put on your potted plants. Consider the chart below and note the Neutrog products and the quantity that is recommended for various sized pots:

POTTED PLANT FERTILISING GUIDE

Confused about exactly how much fertiliser to apply to your potted plants?

All potted plants will benefit from year round fertilising to keep them thriving throughout each season. Application rates differ depending on the size of the pot you are using, so to make it easier for you, Neutrog have put together the basic guide below.



Pot Size	40"/100cm	30"/76cm	20"/50cm	12"/30cm	6"/15cm
Strike Back for Orchids:	100g	75g	50g	30g	15g
Sudden Impact for Roses:	185g	135g	85g	45g	15g
Kahoona:	185g	135g	85g	45g	15g
Seamungus:	250g	190g	125g	75g	40g
Bush Tucker:	150g	115g	75g	45g	25g
Gyganic:	185g	135g	85g	45g	15g
Human Beans:	250g	190g	125g	75g	40g



If you have not already fed your roses in readiness for their autumn flush, then now is a good time to feed with either liquid **Sudden Impact for Roses** or with *Sudden Impact for Roses* pellets and *GOGO Juice*. Liquid *Sudden Impact for Roses* is excellent for our drier weather as the liquid gives a faster feed than waiting for pellets to slowly breakdown. Try feeding your roses with both forms and stand back for a rush of growth. Users of *Sudden Impact for Roses* consistently report on an increase in the number of flowers; an increase in the quality of individual blooms; continued general plant vigour and sturdy growth; and also an improvement in the health of the plants, with increased resistance to fungal disease such as black spot, rust and powdery mildew, resulting in a marked reduction in the need for preventative spraying by up to two thirds.

Sudden Impact for Roses is a wonderful fertiliser for potted plants (see the chart above for guidance) and for most other things in the garden and not just for roses. The *Sudden Impact for Roses* liquid version is wonderful for flowering annuals if you cut them back and feed with *Sudden Impact for Roses* for another flush before winter.

Keep your vegetables and herbs well watered and feed with liquid *Sudden Impact for Roses* fortnightly.

Too Many Zucchini's?

Try this easy recipe for a decadent afternoon tea slice or dessert cake.

Chocolate and Zucchini Cake

Makes 9–12 squares or serves 6 for dessert.

Ingredients:

500 g zucchinis, grated
220 g dark brown sugar
150 g butter
2 tsp vanilla extract
4 eggs, lightly beaten
150 ml milk
250 g plain flour
100 g wholemeal flour
75 g cocoa powder
2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp ground cardamom
½ tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp grated nutmeg

(Optional: Add in ½ cup of chopped walnuts or pecans or chocolate chips.)



Method:

- Trim and grate the zucchinis using the widest grater available, then place in a clean tea towel and squeeze out as much of the water as possible. Leave in a sieve until needed.
- Preheat the oven to 180°C. Line a 33 x 23cm baking tin or for dessert use a 25cm round cake tin or springform pan with baking parchment. (A round cake will take longer to cook.)
- Using an electric whisk or stand mixer, beat together the sugar and butter until light and creamy. While still mixing, add the vanilla and eggs and continue to beat for a minute or so.
- In a separate bowl, mix together the two flours, cocoa powder, baking powder, and spices (and optional nuts or chocolate chips).
- Gently fold the dry mixture into the wet ingredients using a metal spoon. Stir in the zucchinis until well combined. Over-mixing can cause a tough or gummy texture.
- Pour the mixture into the baking tin and level out.
- Bake for 30 minutes for a 33 x 23cm baking tin, until it feels firm when the top is pressed or a skewer comes out clean. Or for 40–50 minutes for a 25cm round cake tin. Check with a skewer.
- Remove from the oven and leave to cool.
- Cut into squares (or triangles for a round tin) when completely cool and serve with some whipped cream, plain yoghurt or vanilla ice cream.
- The cake can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 4 days or it freezes well.

Sheffield Autumn Flowerfest 2024



A delightful experience is to pop over to Sheffield to enjoy their shows twice a year. This year's autumn show was just as lovely as you see in the various photos, left and below.



Diary Dates!

Friday 1 March 2024 Lunch on the Lawn at Government House. Gates open 12 noon – 2pm. Bring your picnic and enjoy the beautiful gardens of Government House with friends and family in early autumn. Please note, no parking on site, no pets or alcohol permitted. Free entry. No need for tickets.

2 March Hamilton Dahlia Show. Located in the Home Industries Hall at the Hamilton Recreation Grounds, 5595 Lyell Highway, Hamilton, 8am – 4pm. The Hamilton Agricultural Show is a traditional grassroots show. [Tickets from eventbrite](#) @ \$11.90 adult or family \$27.78 entry to the entire Show. Children's tickets and a family package available at the above Eventbrite link.

8—9 March Hobart Horticultural Society Dahlia Show. Hobart Town Hall. View glorious dahlias and a wide range of late summer—early autumn flowers. Free entry. Donations welcome. All exhibitors are welcome. Exhibiting is free and open to all gardeners. Visit the [HHS website](#) or Facebook for the Show Schedule. Set up Thursday evening 4 – 8pm and Friday 8 – 10:00 am. Show opens on Friday 1 – 5pm and Saturday 10 am – 4 pm. **Official opening at 1:15 pm on Friday.**

17 March Hobart Horticultural Society Sandy Bay Dahlia Show. Located in the Sea Scout Hall on Cnr. Marsden Street & Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay (on the right past the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania). Staging of entries: 9:00 – 10:30 am. Entries close: 10:30 am. Judging from: 10:30 am–12 pm. Prize ceremony: 2 pm. Open to the public from 12.00 noon – 4.30 pm. \$2 entry. Dahlias and other flowers on show. For more information, contact: Jane Green email: jane1970@live.com.au or 0402 215 959

18 March 2024 The Tasmanian Orchid Society Inc. Annual General Meeting to commence at 7:30 pm. Legacy Hall, 159 Macquarie Street, Hobart. New members and visitors welcome. Contact: secretary@tos.org.au or TOS Secretary, PO Box 51, South Hobart TAS 7004

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