

# January in the Garden

Summer is a great time of year to stop and to enjoy the fruits of your previous labour. On saying this, there is still much to be achieved in the summer garden.

Treat gardens, pots and hanging baskets with a plant and soil conditioner such as Seasol. This will help your plants cope with extreme summer conditions. Applying a water retention granule such as Saturaid to your soil or lawn can reduce water use by up to 50%. This will save on the water and make efficient use of the natural resource of summer rains.

Water Smart! It's best to water first thing in the morning, to give your soil a chance to absorb the moisture before it gets too hot.

Top up your gardens with mulch, it looks great and helps with water retention.

Consider some shade cloth to cover garden beds. It's perfect for protecting sensitive veggies on those hot summer days. Crops such as sweetcorn and tomatoes are likely to be looking top heavy, so make sure you have adequate support for your plants. Add a layer mulch such as pea straw or sugar cane mulch to maintain ideal growth conditions. Harvest summer veggies regularly so they'll continue produce more crops. Preserve, dry or freeze any excess produce.

Spray roses to control black spot and pick up fallen leaves around your roses. Watch out for unwanted pests such as aphids, thrips and caterpillars. Ask about safe methods of control.

Cut back and feed annual flowers. De-head and fertilise flowering plants such as fuchsias and geraniums - they'll be back in flower in no time.

Tasty herbs like Parsley, Basil, Mint, Sage and Dill in decorative containers are a great addition to your outdoor kitchen and dining areas.

Raise mower blades and avoid scalping your lawn. Scalping your lawn will encourage weeds to take hold and reduce the foliage protection to soil. Short grass effectively results in shallow lawn roots and grass with poor disease resistance.

Bring life to your garden with a cooling water feature.



SUMMER  
DAZE

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