

June brought the start of the cold weather, some excellent late Autumnal colour on Ornamental Pears & Japanese Maples & some lovely rain. We've now passed the shortest day & the low point in the yearly growing cycle. I already see Magnolia & Narcissus in flower & the odd bit of blossom from flowering quince & weeping apricot. The Pansies & Violas start to flower more as the days lengthen & we can slowly see our gardens go forwards not backwards.

We now have a good number of our new season roses in with more to arrive in the next couple of weeks. We again concentrate on the tried & true varieties that have proven their worth over the years; the known quantities, the trusted performers. Although I am sceptical of the worth of many of the new varieties my main rose grower gives me the good oil on what he is impressed by & this year it is a new deep red called Dark Desire. It has all the things I like in a rose; good vigour, very good disease resistance & great perfume! Another rose that has impressed him and others is a new David Austin called Wollerton Old Hall (terrible name until you find out it's named after one of the most beautiful gardens in England!) Can be grown as a vigorous tall bush but is better as a climber with masses of very fragrant pale peachy/apricot coloured roses over a long flowering period. One of the most fragrant English Roses!



Wollerton Old Hall



Dark Desire

THINGS TO DO IN JULY

- If you haven't already pruned your roses then do it now; we've already passed the lowest point in their yearly growing cycle in Melbourne and a rough prune is better than no prune
- Spray over and around pruned roses with Lime Sulphur to clean up any residual disease spore and mite eggs. If you do only one disease prevention measure this year this is the one.
- Feed roses when new growth emerges with an organic based complete fertilizer (works better in the cold)
- Liquid feed your annuals (especially Pansies) with an organic based fertilizer(Charlie Carp, Powerfeed or Maxicrop) to stimulate growth and flower.
- Look at your garden and if there is nothing that makes you happy, visit the nursery to see a whole lot of Winter happy in fragrance and colour
- Trim all your hedges to shape now so that your new Spring growth will be in the right shape & structure
- Cut out all Citrus Wasp galls out of your Citrus trees. These "lumps" are full of larvae that will start burrowing out of the galls in August. Removal of galls now prevents the progeny of "your" gall wasps from re-infesting your trees. Feed all affected Citrus with high Potassium/organic based complete fertilizer to aid recovery and improve resistance and hang Gall Wasp traps to catch invading wasps.
- Plant our lovely big crowns of Asparagus and Rhubarb into raised, improved soil for many years of productivity.
- Plant some of our interesting seed potatoes; one of the easiest and most productive vegies you can grow.
- If you have wishy-washy coloured Hydrangeas that you want to be a beautiful blue then start applying the blueing fertilizer now.
- New season deciduous Magnolias arrive this month. Always plant up on a mound in improved soil.
- Plant new strawberries or rejuvenate an existing bed. Strawberries like good drainage (raised beds, pots or baskets), good nutrition (plenty of compost/manure now and a balanced complete fertilizer later) and at least half a day's sun.
- Ideal time to plant Coriander, Winter Mint and Parsley plants.
- If your plant is yellow, feed it with an organic based fertiliser. I'm seeing lots of hungry Citrus and Camellias that are working hard but with no available nutrients are consuming themselves!

WINTER PERFUME

Daphne is looking great just coming into flower proving its value & resilience. I always plant Daphne into improved soils, on a mound in a raised position to ensure good drainage. Traditional Daphne Odora I plant in shade under trees & shrubs whilst Eternal Fragrance & Perfume Princess are happier getting a bit of sun. Another standout Winter fragrance is the Sweet Box; tough but beautiful small shrub with glossy dark green foliage & masses of small fragrant white Winter flowers. Great in shade under trees! Great small hedge. I am a big fan of Chimonanthus aka Wintersweet or Allspice; a hardy 2-3m shrub with the most sublime perfume from small yellow waxy flowers. Excellent picking flower. Osmanthus Heaven Scent is an easy to grow medium shrub with masses of small white highly perfumed flowers through Winter. There is an old saying amongst gardeners; "the colder the Winter, the better the Spring!" June has certainly been cold but lots of plants like a proper Winter & will now burst forward in Spring.



It may be cold outside, but the gift shop is full of hot gift ideas right now!

We've just received into store a brand new range from Sketchmill. This gorgeous range of cards, soaps, tea towels & prints are beautifully illustrated by Melbourne artist Bic Walker. Her iconic Melbourne sketches are perfect for that overseas gift & feature the skipping girl, the MCG, Flinders Street Station & the Astor Theatre to name just a few.



Winter is the perfect time for yummy soups. Our stainless steel containers make soup portable so you can get warm anywhere. The double wall, vacuum insulated body of the container reduces condensation & allows food to stay hot for up to 7 hours. It's tight fitting twist lid with silicone seal, ensures no leaking.

We're really loving our range of bodycare from Salus. This beautiful spa inspired range helps you to relax, calms the mind and nourishes the body. Every product within the Salus range is packaged in recyclable or reusable packaging and is proudly made in Melbourne.



We look forward to seeing you in the gift shop very soon.

Janine, Melissa, Vivienne, Marita, Paula and Sophie



Instagram
@acorn_nursery