

The cool, wet, overcast weather continued through October favouring lush foliage growth (& weeds) but slowing flower & fruit production & for some warm climate plants it has put us weeks behind last year! Some plants are struggling with water logging, but the deep soaking will stand the gardens in good stead for months to come. The longer range forecast is predicting ongoing moderate temperatures and consistent rainfall which for gardens & gardeners is a good thing! *94mm of rain in October in Surrey Hills!

WARM CLIMATE / SUMMER COLOUR

Hydrangeas come into their own in November, flowering happily in the mild weather of late Spring and early Summer (because we pruned them in mid-Summer). Hydrangeas love a sheltered position with plenty of compost incorporated into the soil and generous mulching. The acidity/alkalinity of your soil can affect the colour of your flowers. Acidic soil means bluer flowers whilst more alkaline limey soil means more pinky-red flowers. Whites will stay white. All are heart warmingly spectacular, both the traditional varieties and new improved varieties and are great for late Spring/early Summer colour and picking flowers.



Hydrangea



Hibiscus Rio Clara

Hibiscus; we now have new varieties that are more compact, more floriferous and are suitable for pots or as small to medium bushy shrubs in the garden. They thrive with at least half a day's sun, organically improved soil, a raised well drained position and a fence or wall as a wind break behind them. Hibiscuses are great to add exotic colour to your garden for all of Summer and Autumn.

Bougainvillea will be slower to come through this year because they don't like it cold or wet and we have both in excess! Traditionally they are vigorous rambling climbers but the most popular varieties now are the dwarf or semi-compact Bambino Bougainvilleas. There are a number of cold tolerant, brilliantly coloured varieties that grow well here. They need half a day to a full day's sun, good drainage (ie. best quality potting mix when potted) and a high K fertilizer favouring flowers over foliage, such as our Fruit and Citrus Food, Sudden Impact or the high K Osmocote. They are quite drought tolerant but plant up on a raised mound of improved soil to ensure good drainage in these wetter times. With some warmer weather, our warmer season perennials come into their own in particular; Salvias, English Lavenders, Calibrachos, Geraniums and Gauras.



Bambino Bougainvilleas

Stop and smell the roses! Cup weekend is traditionally the start of the rose season with all of their colour and perfume. Now is the best time to choose and plant a rose as you can see the colour, smell the fragrance and plant an established plant that will grow quickly!



TONY'S TIPS

NOVEMBER

THINGS TO DO IN NOVEMBER

- Spray roses with RoseSpray/Mancozeb/Kocide to limit fungal diseases that flourishing in the wetter weather.
- Use Tomato Dust or Kocide to prevent disease on tomatoes, zucchini and cucumbers.
- Plant Basil – it's finally warm enough. Also plant cold sensitive chillies.
- Encourage Gardenias out of a cold and difficult Spring with Harry's Gardenia Food
- Watch out for Pear & Cherry Slug, especially on Cherries. Treat quickly (at first sign of holes) before it gets dangerous with Mavrik, Pyrethrum, Dipel or Success.
- November is the last month to plant tomatoes and get a decent crop.
- It's warm enough now to plant Vinca and New Guinea Impatiens seedlings for Summer and Autumn colour. Plant now for a colourful Christmas display.
- Start feeding tomato, capsicum & eggplants when they begin flowering with a high K, low soluble N fertilizer (such as our Fruit & Citrus Food) to promote fruit production over foliage growth.
- Trim your roses as soon as they have finished their first flush of flower and feed to encourage their next flush of growth and flowers, perhaps in time for Christmas.
- Magpies and crows digging in your lawn are a sure sign of Lawn Beetle Grub in your lawn. Treat now to prevent dead patches come summer.
- Feed Buffalo/kikuyu/couch lawns with slow release lawn food to help them out of an extended cold, wet spell.

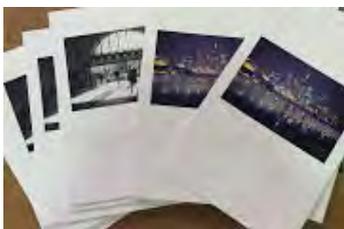


Stock is arriving daily filling the shelves with fantastic Christmas gift ideas. Whether you're after stocking fillers, larger gifts or an Australian made gift to send overseas, we've got that something special for someone special.

Educational games, activity sets & toys from Tiger Tribe tick all the boxes when choosing a gift for a child. Designed to promote independent play and encourage creativity, they're compact, portable, and perfect for the Christmas holidays.



Beautifully made wooden games from Planet Finska continue to be extremely popular. Create family fun by choosing Finska, Quoits, Skittles, Croquet and many others. Ideal for holiday houses, the beach or just backyard fun.



Matt Irwin, award winning Melbourne photographer has again produced an exquisite 2017 calendar featuring his iconic & beautiful images of Melbourne. Priced at just \$29-95, get yours early to avoid disappointment - we sell out quickly every year!

We're always happy to wrap your gifts so there's no sneaky peaking before Christmas! We look forward to seeing you soon...

Janine, Melissa, Vivienne, Marita, Paula and Sophie