

TOMATOES

I'm sick of perfect looking, utterly tasteless tomatoes! I will plant my first tomatoes in the first week of September both here and home, concentrating at first on the cold tolerant varieties able to flower and set fruit in cooler temperatures. E.g. all the cherry tomatoes plus Apollo, Rouge de Marmande, KY1 and my favourite Plum Truss. Tomato success is simple; select a reasonably sunny spot, improve soil (Zoogro is best plus a handful of lime) and plant your tomato seedling into improved soil, water in with seaweed solution. DO NOT feed your plants until they are flowering well and the first pea sized fruits have formed and even then use a high Potassium flower/fruit orientated fertiliser. Too much food too early promotes lush weak growth and postpones flowering and fruiting. Provide support with a tomato trainer or stakes. Never plant tomatoes in the same spot 2 years running to prevent disease problems. Every second year I plant my tomatoes in 400mm to 500mm pots in new good potting mix to rotate my crops. Prevent most disease/pest problems by dusting with Tomato Dust. We'll have 30+ varieties of tomato plants this month - climbing, grafted, trailing, dwarf, bush & heirloom, small & large fruited varieties in all sorts of colours. The best thing is they all taste at least good but are mostly great! New season vegies this month - Eggplants, Capsicums, Chillies, Zucchini & Cucumbers. Plant into improved soil but don't feed until the plant is in the flowering/fruiting mode. Grow your own salad! It's time to rejuvenate & replant your herb garden with our extensive range of salad greens and our widest range of fresh herb plants. A new release - Tomato Boss arrives. It is a cross between two older established varieties (Costoluto Genovese and Brandywine), both prized for flavour but their new baby is stronger growing, has better disease resistance and higher yields. The only foreseeable problems with this variety are it is a big grower (2ish metres) with PINK fruit! I look forward to growing it this year.



Tomato Boss

THINGS TO DO IN SEPTEMBER

- Spray Peaches and Nectarines with Liquid Copper/Kocide to prevent Peach Leaf Curl at pink bud stage and green bud stage. Use same copper sprays to prevent disease on roses, tomatoes & other vegies.
- Use the specialist Harrys Gardenia Food on your Gardenias each month of Spring because it works!
- Control weeds in lawn before feeding with a selective weedicide using a watering can or sprayer.
- Remove Galls(lumps) in Citrus, protect with Citrus Gall Wasp traps and feed with high K fertiliser.
- Feed all potted plants and baskets (indoors and out) with Osmocote with Wetting Agent, preferably our favourite high K Osmocote (twice a year; start of Spring and Autumn).
- Liquid feed Pansies and Violas with Charlie Carp to maximise flowers.
- Prune early spring flowering plants back after flowering; Azaleas, Camellias, Wisteria, Spirea, japonica(-flowering Quince), Pieris,
- Top dress, reseed, rejuvenate or start from scratch a new lawn. Now is the best time.
- Cut back hard ornamental grasses like Liriope, Fountain Grass etc
- Don't tease the roots of new plants when planting. At most I score the root system with my thumbnail in 4 or 5 stripes down the side and plant into improved soil. We don't tease roots out we tempt roots out!

NEW SEASON COLOUR

The soil is warm enough to plant new season seedlings like Petunias, Salvias, Marigolds and Begonias with Pansies coming into their own with the warmer, longer days. New season perennials are increasing in range every week. One of the most rewarding colourful plants in the last couple of years for me have been the Impacio Impatiens. I have had them flowering their heads off from Spring through to the start of Winter and then survive winter ready to go again! More sun-tolerant, better performing and generally hardier. Only available in pots but they are the best performing Impatiens in the marketplace currently. Always plant into best potting mix or soil improved with Zoogro compost.

FEEDING

Regular feeding through the year is important but this early Spring feed is the most important feed. Make it a proper, healthy, nutritious feed; ie the organic based complete All Purpose Plant Food, not a fast food you were able to buy conveniently at a drive-thru on the way to work. Better nutrition means a stronger, more productive, more attractive plant. Feed lawns now with slow release high performance lawn foods like Lawn Builder or Lawn Master.



Melissa and Janine have just returned from a very successful buying trip to the Gift Fair. Exciting and enticing new items are being delivered almost everyday.

We've introduced a beautiful new jewellery range from Bianc. This jewellery is made from solid sterling silver & is rhodium plated to ensure it remains free of tarnish.

Featuring semi precious stones such as blue topaz, rose quartz and green amethyst, this gorgeous range makes the ideal gift for that special someone or a special gift to give yourself! This high quality range of earrings, necklaces, rings & bracelets are absolutely exquisite.



Our first range of Spring fashion has just arrived. We've introduced 2 new brands - Ruby Yaya and Lula Soul. Both labels reflect feminine, colourful, fashionable and comfortable styles that are easy to wear for all different body shapes and sizes. Come in & try some pieces on for yourself.

We're so excited by the gorgeous colours of the season that show through not only in fashion, but also in our beautiful ranges of tableware and soft furnishings. Whether you're after that cushion to add a pop of colour to your lounge suite or some new bowls or coasters to add life to the dinner table, we have a wide variety to choose from. Aura by Tracie Ellis is a gorgeous handmade range of stoneware featuring small plates, bowls and cups all very affordably priced.



This is just a small taste of what's about to arrive and there's never been a better time to pop in.

See you soon.

Janine, Melissa, Vivienne, Marita, Paula and Sophie

