

I'm always glad to see Autumn, partly a relief that summer is over & mostly because it is the kindest, mildest season for gardens with so much happening with new season plants. This year we have had a relatively mild summer in southern Victoria with the odd hot day but nothing that really stresses the garden or the gardener. This means we arrive at Autumn with happy plants ready to prosper. All the new season cool climate plants start to come on stream now & a lot of plants react positively to the milder climate, shorter days & improved rainfall. If you are going to do any serious planting, do it now as your plants will have maximum time to establish their roots ready for the Spring growth flush & the Summer heat.

THE 3 DEADLY SINS OF PLANTING

1. Don't plant a plant deeper than it was in the pot – preferably up on a mound; happy to see surface roots at soil surface.
2. Don't plant into an unimproved soil. Always mix in some organic soil conditioner or organic fertilizer.
3. Don't tease the roots! I never tease roots out, I tempt the roots out with good soil preparation. Root teasing is at the very least handicapping the plant & is often fatal. Scoring the matted root system with my thumbnail is as far as I will go!

NEW PLANTS

Camellia Sasanqua Olivia – This was released last year in small numbers but this year we have better stocks of this lovely plant. Bred from a chance seedling at our grower up in the hills, it has been extensively trialled & proven to be a strong upright growing plant that could easily get up to 3m+ but also reacts well to a prune & forms a great hedge. Deep glossy green foliage all year around & in early April starts bearing lovely mid-pink semi-double flowers in profusion right through until July. It looks likely to be the new best mid pink semi-double flowered Camellia & be catapulted into our best 5 Sasanqua varieties. We have a wide range of the best sasanqua varieties & it is still the best, most versatile flowering screening hedge available & now is the perfect time to plant.



Camellia Sasanqua Olivia



Rhapsiolepis Oriental Pink

Rhapsiolepis Oriental Pink – We know how tough & hardy the good varieties of Rhapsiolepis are but until now they have all been white flowered varieties. This new variety has mid pink flowers in profusion in Spring, lovely glossy dark green foliage on a bush 1.2 to 1.5m tall by 1m wide. Like all Indian Hawthorns they are great for difficult positions but hate wet feet!

THINGS TO DO IN MARCH

- Feed all established plants with a nutritious complete fertilizer ie organic based & balanced ingredients. Autumn is an important growing season & good food applied now has great results
- Start planting new season flowers & vegies for Winter & Spring displays & produce ie. Pansies, Primulas, Poppies, Cyclamen, Kale, Cabbages, Caulis, Broccoli, Broad Beans plus more lettuce, rocket & Silver Beet. Milder weather is now ideal to plant Coriander & Spinach.
- Plant Bulbs Now! Daffodils, Jonquils, Hyacinths, Muscari, Scilla & Freesias should all be planted now & your first batch of tulips put in the crisper now. These bulbs – Spring flowering in the Northern Hemisphere will flower in our winter providing valuable colour & terrific cut flowers. We have a great range of bulbs including the hard to get Giant Allium in limited quantities which does very well in our climate. All bulbs like well drained, organically improved soils or are great in pots. Plant them under your roses to add colour to your wintery rose bed.
- Rejuvenate or feed your lawn now to take advantage of the benevolent growing conditions.
- Watch out for distorted new growth on citrus trees; a sure sign of citrus leaf miner. Spray comprehensively with Pest Oil & again in 7 days.



A new season brings lots of change to the gift shop. Melissa and Janine have just returned from 5 fabulous days of shopping at the gift fair. As soon as they returned, deliveries started rolling in. With some fantastic new suppliers as well as gorgeous new items from our existing suppliers, you're bound to find that perfect something when you next visit.

Otto and Spike is our new range of socks. Otto and Spike have been proudly knitting quality products in Melbourne for over 40 years. These beautiful socks are available in 2 sizes and in a wide variety of colours and styles. Priced at just \$17-50 and made in Melbourne, they also make the perfect overseas gift.

If you're looking for a new handbag - look no further. With 5 different brands to choose from, you'll be sure to find the perfect bag for all occasions. The colours for the new season are gorgeous. Rich and warm tans, reds, blues and of course, black. If you prefer a bright colour that really pops, then we have that too!

Pots on stands have become the latest most 'on trend' decorater item for the home. Perfect for lifting your beautiful indoor plants up to eye level. There are so many different types and sizes to choose from, let us help you find the best one for your home.



We look forward to seeing you soon... *Melissa, Janine, Vivienne, Marita, Paula and Sophie*