

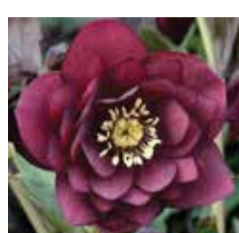
TONY'S TIPS

APRIL

The weather has finally cooled, the rain has come and it's comfortable to go out in the garden again. Mid-Autumn is one of the best times to be doing major planting with both new season cool climate plants and warm climate plants all loving the mild weather and having eight months of establishment before summer comes around. We are busily replanting our garden beds, pots and baskets with new season seedlings to establish before Winter and flower right through to Spring.

HELLEBORUS

New season Helleborus are just coming through now as the weather cools. Hellebores are ideal for our climate; they go dormant when the weather warms up and become active as the weather cools down. They are the perfect plant for under deciduous trees; loving the summer shade but also loving a bit of winter sun. Plant into organically improved, well drained soil for a spectacular annual display of winter & early spring flowering. Existing plants should have the old foliage pruned off now and fed the All Purpose complete food to stimulate growth & a good flowering. They hail from a climate like ours - hot, dry summers & cooler, wetter winters encouraging them to do all of their growing, flowering cycle in the cooler months.



SALVIAS



Most perennial salvias are at their best now in the milder 'Goldilocks' weather. I prune most salvias early spring and mid-summer to maximise their spring/early summer flowering and their extended Autumn flowering. This is the ideal time to choose and plant new salvias. My current favourites are the So Cool mauve, purple and violet salvias that bear masses of small colourful flowers over a long period.

THINGS TO DO IN APRIL

- Feed your garden and lawn. Fatten up your plants for Autumn growth and flowers and their impending winter dormancy or just feed to help recover from Summer. Especially important for Gardenias, Citrus and Buffalo lawns to be fattened up for Winter.
- Feed cymbidium orchids with a high K fertilizer to encourage more and better flowering.
- Use snail pellets as the cooler, wetter weather brings out the snails.
- Plant pansies, violas, poppies, primulas, cinerarias, foxgloves and sweet peas now for a wonderful winter and spring display.
- Plant winter vegies now as the summer vegies finish. Improve soil with Zoogro & plant Broccoli, beets, cabbages (all shapes & colours) caulis, kale (it's good for you), snow peas and broad beans, Parsley for garnish, Rosemary for its robust flavour & growth & continue planting lettuces, spinach, rocket and radicchio. Time to plant certified seed garlic in raised well drained soil.
- Watch out for distorted new growth on Citrus caused by Citrus Leaf Miner. Prune off most damaged growth and spray with Pest Oil comprehensively now and again in 7 and 14 days.
- Compost all the Autumn leaves in a bin, a pile or a hole with a couple of handfuls of blood and bone added. Aerate regularly for quicker breakdown.
- Feed Natives, Proteas and Leucadendrons now with Natural Natives fertiliser as they come into their active growth and flowering period through Winter.
- Look at your garden and if there is not enough colour in your garden now then plant something that is brilliant at this time of the year. i.e. sasanquas, salvias, Correa Autumn Blaze.

Visit me in store for even more tips!
Regards, Tony



With the cooler weather upon us, every gardener needs functional and practical outdoor boots. Bogs are the perfect boots for serious (and not so serious) gardeners. We have a wide variety of colours and styles. Choose from long, mid or short all in either patterned or plain colours.

Our new range of Pikkie draught excluders and door stops are now in stock. This ever popular brand have outdone themselves this season with beautiful designer prints and colours. Stock is moving fast, so be quick.



We've introduced a new range of French jewellery featuring gorgeous handmade dolls. Traditionally, these dolls are given from one woman to another as a sign of friendship. We can now give them too as a beautiful piece of jewellery that will have people asking 'Where did you get that? I love it!'

Tani have released their new Autumn collection featuring the Safari Storm print. We're loving the versatility of this bold print. Teams perfectly with black pants - the staple of a Melbourne wardrobe.

So popular last year, that we've repeated them this year, is the Tirelli Swing coat. Complete with a hood, this coat suits every shape and size.

We look forward to seeing you soon in the gift shop... *Melissa, Janine, Viv, Marita, Paula and Emma*

