

Spring home gardening guide

Spring is a breath of fresh air for your garden. The new season can be an excellent opportunity to grow your own veggies or plant new bright flowers to spruce up the place.

Need ideas for what new veggies to grow?

Veggie gardens in spring grow quick, and you can be serving up your homegrown goods in weeks. Home gardeners can grow:

- Climbing beans or peas
- Leeks, spring onions, celery
- Leafy greens (lettuce, rocket, etc.)
- Herbs (parsley, basil, chives, etc.)
- Artichoke
- Eggplant, capsicum, chilli, cucumber, etc.
- Tomatoes

Any windowsill seedlings can be transplanted into the garden bed, use Kelpak™ or Seasol™ planting gel to kickstart transplant growth.

Before you start planting

To get a head start on the season, weed the garden beds and remove leftover plant material. New plantings will not be able to compete against established weeds.

Prepare the area by replenishing nutrients, spread a good manure or compost over the garden bed – working the soil and leveling before beginning to plant.

Building a trellis

A handful of plants, like climbing beans or peas, grow better yields when trained onto a trellis. Home gardeners can build a simple trellis using bamboo shoots cross-hatched together or the shoot alone.

When and where to plant out?

Gardeners should be planting out after mid-September to avoid a spring frost. Use the seed-packet instructions to look where to plant.

Try planting good tasting combinations together for beneficial growing. General rule for veggies and herbs is if it tastes good together, it will probably grow well together too!

Maintaining the garden

Top up the garden with nutrients every 4-6 weeks by broadcasting a few handfuls of Rustica™ or other NPK fertilisers. Water the garden at least every 2-3 days, otherwise gardeners are risking cracked skins and burst tomatoes.

Climbing veggies should be trained as they grow to prevent overcrowding the garden and to allow other plants to flourish.

Pests

Warmer temperatures bring out bugs targeting all your hard work. To keep the bugs at bay try using a soft insecticide in the garden, like Vegetable Dust or Yates™ Nature's Way selection. Harsher chemicals can kill off your beneficial predators.

Fighting off Pests?

David Gray's™ Vegetable Derris Dust controls aphids, caterpillars in your garden. Look for pest control options at your local Yenda Producers and ask an agronomist for advice on your garden.



Harvest

Leafy greens can be ready in as little as 6 weeks with the warmer temperatures. Other above ground veggies gardeners will ripen before your eyes, ready to be picked around 6-8 weeks. Gardeners planting out windowsill seedlings can expect an earlier harvest

Spruce up the place with annuals

Gardeners can bring vibrant colours to the garden by planting out annuals from either seed or potted seedlings. Home gardeners can look out for:

- Sunflowers
- Petunias
- Marigolds
- Geraniums
- Snapdragons



Garden landscaping for the new year

Planning out a new part of your garden? Before you begin to plant, consider planting shrubs or flowers with alternate flowering times to have a colourful garden all year round.

Flowers generally bloom in the autumn (a) or the spring (s), try planting these pairings:

- Dahlias (a) and hydrangeas (s)
- Perennial salvias (a) and Bluestar (s)
- Poppy mallow ground cover (a) and English lavender (s)

Why not plant a native?

Purple coral pea, or *Hardenbergia violacea*, is climber native to the Riverina and able to tolerate the harsh heat and drought. Yenda locals might know it by its other name, happy wanderer.



True to the name, the purple coral pea blooms purple flowers in both the summer and the winter!

Home garden maintenance

Spring is the season to renew your garden but don't forget to maintain what you have.

Fertilize, fertilize, fertilize

Springtime is a wake-up call for plants, to kickstart growth gardeners need to feed and water the garden well. Gardeners can use an NPK mix across most of the garden and on the lawn. Avoid fertilizing Australian natives, lucky for us our native plants require no fertilizer to bring out the best in the garden.

Begin regularly watering the garden in early spring, plants need water even before budburst.

Plant out your big projects

Prepare the area by digging out the soil and turning in compost (if you haven't already). Gardeners should loosen the plant roots and avoid compacting the soil. New plant roots need friable soil to grow.

To kickstart growth, try using use Kelpak™, eco-weed™ or Seasol™ planting gel.

Dividing perennials for better blooms

By dividing perennials every 2-3 years gardeners can bring out the best in their garden. Overcrowded bulbs or tubers can decrease both the size and the number of flowers

Dividing can be stressful for plants. Gardeners should keep the divided plants both cool and moist.

Mulching

Spread mulch around the entire garden, or the areas you've missed, before the end of spring to prepare for hot summer. Mulch helps retain water in the soil and keeps the soil temperature down.

Weeding

Weeds around smaller ornamentals or delicate plants are best to be weeded out by hand using a pair of garden gloves, using a shovel for weeds with long taproots. Gardeners can opt to use herbicides but be careful to follow the label instructions.

Weeds got you down?

Amgrow's Chemspray™ line targets grasses and broadleaf weeds in your garden. Pick up either Kleen Lawn or Bin Die at your local Yenda Producers.



Lawncare

Late September, after a rain preferably, aerate the lawn by using aerating sandals or a pitchfork.

Roses

Powdery mildew and other diseases or pests attack roses before anything else in the garden. Protect your roses by regularly spraying with Yates™ Rose Shield or eco-rose.

Fruit trees

Fruit trees and vines are beginning to wake up in the spring, apply fertilizers for vines at the start of October and for fruit trees apply early spring.

Warding off pests and disease

Warmer temperatures bring out all the pests. Use a soft insecticide, like eco-oil™, to target mites, scales and aphids. Gardeners having trouble fighting off gall wasp on citrus can use Confidor™, or for ants try using a sticky tree band.

Protecting vines from powdery mildew and other common diseases, can be achieved by using a simple sulfur dust. Ask an agronomist for more targeted advice on your garden.