

WHAT TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN NOVEMBER

Don't forget to visit the Horticultural Society's Spring Exhibition and Rose Show
Lancaster Hall, Wesley Centre
Saturday and Sunday 11 and 12 November

THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN

Spring is coming to an end. Heritage roses are finishing as modern roses are coming into flower.

Late planted seeds of frost tender annuals should give a fine display of blooms in March before the first frosts.

Deadhead annuals and remove any that are past their best.

Continue to tie sweet peas, water deeply and pick flowers to extend their season.

Tall bearded iris should be divided if this has not been done for a few years.

At the end of this month remove spring annuals and prepare areas for summer and autumn plantings.

Continue to plant dahlia tubers. Cuttings can be taken from plants. Strong stakes are required for taller-growing plants and should be put in prior to planting each tuber to avoid damage.

Transfer tuberous begonias to larger pots. Keep moist, leave plants in the shade house till next month.

Trim evergreen shrubs and hedges.

Check roses for insect or fungal problems. Deadhead roses to a strong bud for another flush of flowers. Continue to do this through the season for best results.

IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN

Main planting month for tomatoes, capsicum, basil and eggplant.

Seedlings of beetroot, cabbage, cucumber, leek, melons, pumpkins, silver beet, sweet corn and zucchini may be planted.

Thin out and weed earlier plantings.

Tie and support peas and broad beans and harvest them as they mature.

Remove old winter crops.

Remove weeds as they compete for nutrients and harbour pests and disease.

Keep your plants growing strongly, as they will be less susceptible to pests and diseases.

Continue small sowings of most vegetables to spread the best of crops over a longer period of time.

Frosts are still possible, though unlikely. If cold nights are predicted, frost protection cloth (Marix®) can be useful. Sections can be spread over plants likely to be affected, such as new citrus trees, tomatoes, capsicum and egg plants.

Codling moth pheromone traps are useful, also fruit fly exclusion bags of waxed paper or cloth.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Regular trimming of buxus and most hedges will encourage dense growth, but it's best done before the days become too hot, otherwise burning of new growth may occur.

Watering may need to increase with warmer weather and the possibility of drying, northerly winds. Deep watering twice a week will keep most plants in good condition. Water and feed container-grown plants regularly.

It is far better to water occasionally and deeply than to water often and lightly.

Fill a pottery bowl with water for the birds. In dry times, the birds will greatly appreciate the water and will return regularly.

All climbers must be tied regularly to frames, trellis or wire mesh to prevent them from smothering nearby plants.

Slow release fertilisers are particularly useful in the garden. For pot plants, you will find a once-a-year feeder, as well as specific formulations for trees, shrubs, citrus and roses.
