

Time Line for Bruce Garden 2017 onwards

January 2017

Berries fruiting well, and lots of veggies being harvested. Many of the perennials are resting during the hot weather and have been cut back.

February 2017

The seedling dahlias in the trial bed were looked over and their good and bad points noted. Any that were not up to scratch were dug out.

The berries were tied up and tidied.

Cuttings taken from Coprosma 'Karo Red'.

Veggies being harvested.

April 2017

We decided to remove perennial Phlox 'mini pearl' as it was invading other plants through underground runners and was taking up an area of about 1 metre square. I haven't come across a perennial phlox that spreads like this one.

Some shrubs are flowering: Camellia 'Dazzler', Osmanthus fragrans, Correas 'Autumn Blaze' and 'Ring a Ding Ding'.

Time to plant out 2 daffodil beds.

The fruit trees were uncovered and all fallen fruit removed.

May 2017

Started digging up the dahlia tubers.

One of the red hot pokers was dug and split up. One piece went back into refreshed ground while the rest were potted up. A day lily was given the same treatment.

Chrysanthemums in full bloom.

June 2017

Chrysanthemums cut down.

Penstemon 'White Swan' dug up, split up and a piece replanted. The rest potted up.

As veggie beds finished producing they were dug over. The herb bed cut back and tidied.

July 2017

Rosemary 'Mozart' moved from area next to the shed to near front fence.

Rose and fruit tree pruning demonstration was well attended with some folk going home with rose cuttings to grow. Dahlia bed planted with a green crop of peas.

All deciduous clematis cut back to 50cm from ground.

August 2017

A cold, wet day so not much achieved. Much talk about the upcoming daffodil shows in September. The daffodil beds here had been watered daily and fertilized twice in the last 2 months. All 7 beds are netted to keep out birds that like to snip off flower stems.

Any berry bush under ground runners have been removed. The raspberries seem to produce these more than the other bushes.

All old leaves removed from the peonies.

Feed roses as they start to grow.

September 2017

Plants from PGA planted out included hellebores and lavenders.

Lots of plants, climbers and shrubs budded, including Clematis armandii. This evergreen clematis needs cutting back every year as it is very vigorous.

October 2017

The roses are just starting to flower. Keep an eye out for aphids on new growth, squash with fingers or spray with a soapy wash.

November 2017

Peonies all in flower. These are tree peonies, they like the open position with plenty of sun and a good handful of fertilizer in winter.

In the dahlia bed, the peas were picked and then the plants dug in.

Broad beans flowering.

Most evergreen plants have come through winter with only some frost damage. Callistemon 'Great Balls of Fire' seems the worst hit with new, soft growth damaged.

January 2018

Dead heading of roses and perennials that need it.

Water was switched off to the daffodil beds in December to allow the bulbs to dry out.

All lavenders and kangaroo paws cut back.

The veggies kept picked include tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, corn and beetroot.

February 2018

Carex 'Feather Falls' has taken off. This is a PGA plant and is a recent addition to the garden. The strappy leafed foliage is green with white edging, grows to 30cms and 60cms wide. Makes an attractive clump.

Many perennials flowering but the peony leaves are sunburnt.

March 2018

The autumn fruiting raspberry is very tasty. All apples, tomatoes, beans and cucumbers were picked for folk to take home. The corn stems are now supporting climbing beans.

April 2018

Plants that will flower in winter or early spring were given a feed – hellebores and peonies.

Rosemary 'Tuscan Blue' had some old dead stems that were cut out and the rest cut back. Hopefully they will regenerate.

Spring and summer flowering hedges pruned back to tidy up.

May 2018

Lots of pruning of spent perennials and roses deadheaded. Perennial beds fertilized with Seamungus.

June 2018

Salvia 'Phyllis Fancy' is a tall growing plant to 1.5 mts. Gives a lovely show of soft purple flowers over late summer and autumn. Cut back now and take cuttings or rooted pieces to propagate.

All berries pruned as required and long canes tied to fences.

July 2018

Rose and fruit tree pruning demonstration held. 25 folk attended.

The hellebores are budded and Rosemary 'Mozart' is flowering, obviously happy for being moved.

August 2018

The Daphnes are flowering as is Camellia 'Gwenneth Morey', a lovely soft yellow with an anemone centre.

Finished pruning the remaining roses and fruit trees. The fruit tree 'Spiceze' which was sprayed for curly leaf in May is budded.

Hebe 'Pretty n Pink' has lovely new dark burgundy growth. This plant looks good when not in flower.