

Monthly Checklist



Maintenance of your late summer garden is high on the to-do list, but first preparation of your winter gardens can begin. With plenty to harvest from your kitchen garden, it's time to freeze and preserve all the fruits of your labour ready for the cooler months.

Watering, weeding, mulching and feeding are the most productive garden jobs to accomplish this month.

Flower Garden



- Continue to pick your flowering roses, dead head old flowers and spray to combat pests and diseases.
- Continue to control pests and diseases on flowers and shrubs.
- Early summer bulbs such as anemone, ranunculus, tulips and daffodils arrive in store this month and can be planted in flower beds and pots. Bulbs can be planted from the end of January, through to Autumn. By planting continuously through this period, you will be rewarded with a continuous floral display.
- In warmer areas, place your bulbs in the fridge for 4-6 weeks before planting.

Sowing Seeds



- Sow seeds of winter vegetables like cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, beetroot, winter lettuce, brussel sprouts, spinach, carrots, leeks, and silverbeet.
- Sow seeds of winter flowers like pansy, viola, primula, polyanthus, calendula, cineraria, poppies, lobelia, alyssum and snapdragon.
- Use Tui Seed Raising Mix for best results when sowing seeds.

FEBRUARY

Edible Garden



- Pick fruits every day to encourage late fruiting (especially peas, beans, eggplant, cucumbers and courgettes) and water veges and fruit trees if conditions remain dry.
- Keep planting last summer crops of new lettuce and herbs. It's too late to plant tomatoes, eggplant, cucumbers and peppers unless you have a greenhouse.
- To set your fruit trees up for winter (especially citrus); use Palmer's Citrus Fertiliser for best results.
- Prepare a winter vegetable patch to continue harvesting tasty home produce through the cooler months. Pick up Palmer's Vege Gardening book by the late great Prof Walker - NZ's most trusted vegetable gardener - in store for more information.
- In climates that get cooler consider planting seedlings of your favorite vegetables to get a head start on early winter crops.
- Continue harvesting mid season pip and stone fruit tree crops, berries and citrus.
- Protect your late ripening orchard tree crops from pests and disease with netting or Yates Nature's Way Fruit & Vege Spray.

Watering etc



- Water regularly and deeply during this month to keep your garden healthy and vibrant if conditions are still dry.
- Installing timers, soil moisture gauges and soaker hoses will conserve water and take the hassle out of watering your garden.
- Applying mulch around the base of your plants can conserve up to 70% moisture in the soil and also suppresses weed growth.

Need more information? Just ask one of our friendly, experienced staff members, or go to www.palmers.co.nz for expert advice, problem solving and a wide range of garden How To guides. Join our Garden Club online to receive regular email newsletters, expert advice, exclusive member offers and fantastic prizes to be won.