

January Newsletter

Happy New Year from the Portstone Team.

A quieter month in the garden, you may enjoy pottering about and keeping an eye on watering.

THE EDIBLE GARDEN

You will need to check on your vege garden daily as many plants will be producing in abundance. Harvest your courgettes, cucumbers, beans and peas while they are young and sweet. Regular picking also encourages the plants to produce for many more weeks.

Keep planting out lettuces, silverbeet, spinach and radishes. You can also start putting in seedlings of your late autumn crops like cabbages and cauliflowers.

Your **tomatoes** will be ripening nicely now. Take the time to clip out the thinner branches around the lower part of the plant as this allows air to circulate better and lets more light in which speeds up the ripening of the fruit. Feed regularly with a tomato food or Biopower Seaweed Flake.

Your **garlic** and **onions** will be ready for harvesting;

look out for leaves wilting and dying down. Dig with a fork, knocking off the excess soil and place in the sun to dry for a number of days.

Store in a well aired, dry place, like a shed or garage.

You may like to plait your garlic, this looks good and stores well by hanging, place 3 bulbs and plait until near end, using a leaf to tie the end of plait and use this to hang the plaited garlic.



THE FLOWER GARDEN

There are many Monarch butterflies flying around so if you are interested in watching the cycle of this beautiful creature pick yourself one or two Swan plants, plant in a sunny place keep an eye out for eggs and before you know it chrysalis are hanging, if not on the plant, then check surrounding areas.

Regularly dead head your roses to keep continuous flowering.

Keep checking for aphids, black spot and mildew on your roses and spray for control. Our range of **Grosafe** products has **Enspray 99** which is an organic spray. Do this during calm weather, best early morning or evening. Give your roses a feed by scattering a handful of Nitrophoska around the base (not too close to the rose stem) and water in.

Nitrophoska is a slow release fertiliser that gives long lasting nutrients to the plant.

Water regularly and deeply during the month to keep the garden healthy and vibrant. Watering early mornings or evening is best, a long soak is more beneficial than a light overhead water.

Mulch, mulch and more mulch – your summer garden needs mulching as it protects your plants from extremes in temperatures, keeps roots moist, suppresses weed growth, and creates a tidy, well cared for look.

Keep an eye on your indoor plants as with the warmer weather they tend to dry out quicker so increase your watering over summer. If you are heading away make sure you have a plan for watering them, maybe sit in a saucer of water and place in a cooler part of your home until you return.

Love your Garden

*Take time for yourself sit back and admire
your space or dream about what you'll create this year*