

So round and round we go, just like the seasons and here we are in March already. There is definitely that autumn feel in the air, especially those early mornings, or so I am told by those early risers, I myself are fast asleep until it warms up and gets properly light and the sun shines, then its coffee and crossword before I set a foot outside. A friend of mine has a tee shirt that says "Allergic to mornings", that pretty well sums me up!

But there is no resting for the vege garden as now is the time to plant your winter veges. So let's start with

Lettuce; it is best suited to growing in the slightly cooler months when soil temperatures are more consistent. Lolla Rossa and Drunken Woman both thrive planted out now as do Gourmet Combo, Cos and Little Gem, plus all your red lettuces like Red Oakleaf.

Spring Onions; this hardy crop will actively grow through the cooler season. Plant seedlings in clusters, or as separate seedlings (if you have time on your hands). Spring Onions are brilliant space saving option for pots and containers.

Florence fennel; with a powerful aniseed flavour and it is easy to grow. It loathes the heat, so is perfect to grow through the cooler months.

It enjoys a layer of mulch to keep its roots cool. If it dries out it will bolt and go to seed.

Corn Salad; It is a leafy salad green that thrives best in the coolest months and damp areas. It is happily grown in shade and it has such a modest root system. Very easy to grow and provides juicy sweet leaves for months.

Silver beet; eaten raw or cooked "It's simply the best! Silver beet comes in shades of red, orange, yellow and green, a very colourful autumn and winter crop. It not only survives as the temperatures drop, it thrives. Great in pots and planters.

Cauliflower; whether you choose the "white as a turnip" ones, cheesy looking yellow ones or a violet one, all of them can be planted now. Same goes for **Cabbages** all sorts of sizes and of course **Broccoli**, green, purple and sprouting ones.

White pesky butterflies should disappear as the cold sets in, you shouldn't need to net the plants.

We have an extensive range in our Vege seedlings at a great price **\$4.50 or 3 for \$12**

Look out for our **Kohlrabi** seedlings, such cool plants to have in your vege plot. Being derived from cabbage, it does shape its flavour, but is milder and sweeter. It is high in vitamins, folate, minerals and contains phyto-nutrients (natural compounds found in plants). It is fast maturing, ready for harvest in 8-12 weeks. Harvest when the stems are around 7cm in diameter, any longer and the stems become tough to eat. It can be grown almost all year round, just avoid the hottest and the coldest months. Grow in full sun, standard fertile soil. Water regularly. Both the purple and the green varieties are white on the inside. Delicious in a slaw or oven baked.

In Store

Herbs

Basil; columnar, perennial, Greek, holy and sweet.

Majoram; compactum common and golden

Mint; catmint Vietnamese, common, julep and basil

Origanum.

Parsley.

Rosemary; upright and prostrate

Sage

French Tarragon

Thyme; common, chicken, golden, lemon, pizza, bergamot scented

\$5.99 each or 3 for \$15

Citrus many varieties and looking good

Berries and fruits now is the time to plant your edible garden to give it a head start for the coming Spring

Winter flowering bedding including pansies, violas, primroses, primulas, polyanthus, stock, forget me nots, and wallflowers

Spring Bulbs anemone, freesia, iris, bluebells, ranunculus, hyacinth, daffodil and more arriving

Perennials great selection including **Gypsophila "Bristol Fairy"** and **Echinacea**, also flowering **Alstroemerias**

Salvia; Amistad, Wendy's wish, Mexican Limelight and more. Your late flowering perennial

Cyclamen, Lisianthus & Geraniums – and Roses still battling on and about to flush again

Potted Colour –\$2.50 or 3 for \$6 and \$4.99 or 3 for \$12

The little Market

Gerbera, Bergenia "snow cloud" amazing large lush leaves, white bell-shaped flowers. Fatsia Japonica, coffee plants, spider plants, looking good. Impatience in peat pots, very nice. Dicentra, anemone japonica, pseudopanax, strelitzia, aconitum, banana palms and bath salts.

- Then there is that Dog sniffing around -

These excessively hot days, seem to be behind us now. So with no more excuse's left, its time to get into the garden jobs we have been putting off!

Hedges that need a good trim- any dead or diseased branches that need removing.

Trimming back excessive growth, but not enough to see the neighbours! Pruning

flowering shrubs after they bloom will encourage new growth and blooms for next year.

Mulching with wood chips, shredded bark and pea straw around the base of shrubs and trees help retain moisture, reduces weeds, protects roots and makes our creepy crawlies happy. And it's important to have those, as they play a crucial role in soil health and our ecosystem. Bugs act as decomposers, breaking down organic matter into nutrients for

plant growth. Now is also the time to think about those changes or additions you want to make. And if you are like me I am constantly changing and moving my garden around, depending on whats new and exciting instore. And, at the moment we have in a 4 ft Papyrus and equally impressive Bamboo that would look wonderful in pots, as feature plants, or planted by a pool. Not to mention that I managed to source some Kawakawa plants from the North Island, great to make a medicinal tea from the leaves. Also some very striking super red Cordylines 3 foot high ready again for a statement in pots at entrances or planted in the garden. As always we try to bring you new, and different options for small container gardens and patios to larger gardens. Come in and see us, we love to talk plants 

New In

Venus Fly Trap Plant – an interesting and fun indoor plant

Venus flytraps are probably the best known carnivorous plants. They eat beetles, flies and other small insects. They are easy to care for, just needing wet roots, high humidity, acidic soil and lots of sun. Because they are so good at trapping pests, they do not need fertilising

New Water Features have just arrived.

The small 20cm indoor fountains that is mains powered, others range from 50cm up to 1m in height and can be run either by solar or mains powered.

All fountains are indoor or outdoor, lightweight and durable, and fully self contained with the solar panel, fountain and water pump.

Having a water feature in your garden or patio can help provide calming sights and sounds, promoting relaxation and stress reduction. They can also help draw wildlife to your garden like birds, butterflies and bees.

Eyewear

We now stock Captivated Eyewear. These stylish, anti-blue light reading glasses are available in three styles, come and try them on you might like what you see!

This month's newsletter contributors are;

Bjorg can be located in the undercover area looking after bedding/veges, citrus & The little Market.

Lynnie is our shrub and tree expert;

Leigh can be found within the shop.

Come say hi, we are here to help.

Love your Garden

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