



Greetings



Late rains have the garden looking fresh and colourful. Spring is a rewarding time to get out into the garden and enjoy nature's exercise.

The wildflowers are looking fabulous both in the bush and at Kings Park. It is surprisingly easy to grow our stunning wildflowers in our own gardens.

The nursery is looking wonderful too as the production team have been busy in winter potting and propagating. Dan has sourced flowering plants from accredited nurseries to supplement plants grown on site in our NIASA accredited nursery.

Herbs and vegetables are best sellers as gardeners choose to grow their own produce organically. This issue we talk about what to plant in the veggie garden now.

Hard to believe but Christmas is just around the corner and Lorretta has been busy ordering local and Australian products for the gift shop. You are sure to find something for everyone in our displays.

We look forward to welcoming you to Zanthorrea very soon.

Best wishes from Alec Jackie and the team.

Zanthorrea is on Facebook

Perhaps you have a favourite gardening tip? Visit us on Facebook and share your gardening knowledge.

What's news?

Kings Park Wildflower Festival.

Don't miss the wildflowers, out in full bloom at Kings park Botanic Gardens. Near the Zamia Cafe, there is a new display of native plants that grow easily in home garden, complete with labels and information sheets.

Pick up a brochure at the nursery to find out what is happening during this year's Wildflower festival.

WA's Landscape Calendar 2011



Western Australia's own Landscape calendar is out now! Stunning scenery and bonus postcards will show your friends why WA is the place to be.

Garden Talks

Grow your own veggies

With Jackie. Learn all you need to know about growing vegetables and herbs in your own garden, both in containers and in ground using the no-dig method.

Sat., 9th October, 10am

RSVP 94546260

Gold coin donation to Kanyana

Propagation for beginners

Find out a few simple ways to grow your own native plants over summer ready to plant out in autumn.

Sat., 6th November, 10am

RSVP 94546260

Gold coin donation to Kanyana

27th Edition Plant List

Don't forget to pick up our latest plant list. The new and, we hope, improved format includes a code for: 'Can be difficult to grow', and a thumbs up for 'Rewarding, reliable, recommended!'



Wonderful wildflowers at King's Park Botanic Gardens



Gardening Know-How

Grow your own veggies

Enjoy flavoursome vegetables by growing your own organically and save money on your shopping bill.



We have an excellent range of organic seeds and Heirloom vegetable seedlings in the nursery for spring planting.

Eden Seeds and Select Organic seeds have no chemical treatment or genetic engineering and are heritage varieties that grow true to type.



Heirloom Farm has a great range of organic vegetable seedlings for spring planting and are grown locally by our Alix. ~ Janine

What to plant in the veggie garden

Water may be scarce this summer so plant the following in a part shade position: lettuce, silverbeet, bok choy, rocket. Herbs such as basil, coriander, parsley benefit from shelter too. (A light shade cloth overhead will reduce evaporation, thus reduce water needs.)

Many summer crops love the sun so it is a great time to plant tomatoes, capsicums, eggplant, chilli.

Sprawling crops will protect the ground from the hot sun, but will need regular water through summer: Time to plant watermelon, rockmelon, pumpkin, zucchini.

To keep everything happy and

healthy, add organic material to the soil at planting, and plenty of mulch.

Have fun growing your own food this summer! ~ Jackie

To mulch or not to mulch.

Mulch spread over garden beds will protect plant roots from the hot summer sun. A thick mulch keeps water grabbing weeds at bay and reduces water needs.



Mulch that has chunky and irregular particles is recommended for gardens as it allows water to penetrate. I love straw mulch in the vegetable garden but this can absorb much of the water applied. If using straw, ensure the water is applied under the mulch, either by leaving a space for hand watering to penetrate, or use sub-soil irrigation.

PS: The Water Corporation has a new info sheet on 'Creating a Waterwise veggie garden'. Pick one up at the nursery soon, or go online to the Water Corporation website.

Five Tips for a Waterwise garden.

With this year tipped to be one of the driest on record, it is essential to conserve water in the garden.

Here are five tips to keep your garden looking great and drinking less.

1. Mix compost or soil improver into your soil before planting. Organic material greatly increases the amount of water and nutrient the soil can hold.



2. Add wetting agent to water repellent soils. Check if your soil is water repellent by digging down a few cms to see if the water has penetrated. A healthy soil with lots of organic material is rarely water repellent, so work on improving your soil.

3. Apply a chunky mulch to keep the soil cool. Avoid a mulch that is too fine and fluffy as it can act as a sponge and pull the soil water up to the surface where it is evaporated by the sun.

4. Install an efficient reticulation system. Remember to check your irrigation system regularly to make sure it is working correctly. New plants may need an extra hand water to get them through the warmer months.

5. Grow drought hardy Australian plants. These plants once established may not need any extra water through summer at all! To have them looking their best, one drink a week in summer is recommended.

~ Ross



Drought hardy Hakea bucculenta



Spring Planting

What's flowering now?

Spring has sprung and the nursery is bursting with loads of lovely flowering plants for you to check out. *Boronia megastigma* is flowering beautifully and makes a lovely scented gift - just remember to keep it well watered and out of the hot summer sun. *Verticordia plumosa* is a local favourite that produces pretty mauve flowers every spring. *Thysanotus* or fringe lily is another great local that flowers vivid purple in spring as does its fellow grassy plant *Patersonia occidentalis*. Both are getting into flowering mode now and we have plenty in stock.

The iconic *Lechenaultias* are flowering now and we have a limited amount available including the striking 'Mullewa Blue' form.



Chamelaucium uncinatum

Chamelauciums are doing their usual spring thing and flowering brilliantly, we have heaps of different types available. As usual we have oodles of *Grevilleas* including *crithmifolia*, 'Gilt Dragon', the rare *pimeleoides* and the reliable 'Gin Gin Gem'. *Hakeas* are in good supply and even though they are finishing flowering, it is a great time to plant them with warm weather just around the corner.

If you live on the coastal plain, be sure to investigate our 'Coastal Bay' featuring a number of tough specimens that will excel in coastal sandy soils. Hope you can visit in spring and enjoy all the colour and diversity on offer. ~ Dan

Small trees ramble

In the past we have sold many a rose gum (*Eucalyptus grandis*) like the 35 year old, 40m high one near the nursery gazebo - a magnificent tree and very fast at more than 3m a year during its early years - but needing lots of space.

More often these days we get requests for the small trees, and often the required size is only about 3m. This puts them into the shrub category and it takes patience or pruning to get the tree shape.

Our dwarf *Acacia fimbriata* near the toilets is a classic small tree now after 20 years growing and all but one stem removed. (How can it be called dwarf?)

The same effect can be achieved without pruning, using a *Eucalyptus forrestiana* which unfortunately can take 20 years to reach 3m. It will reward you with yellow flowers and 25mm red fruit.

A bit faster, very reliable and very often used is *Callistemon Kings*

Park Special with the upright 25cm brush flowers. It will need pruning to one stem as it grows, and as a tree makes 4m and very shady. Possibly close to 1m per year if fed and watered.

A couple of the *hakea* are useful here, especially for the low water gardens. *Hakea multilineata* grows 3 to 4 m with purple / red flowers and the pincushion *hakea* (*Hakea laurina*) about 5m with red and yellow blooms

For speed, tropical *grevilleas* can be used - a deep soak each week can make a *Honey Gem* (orange) or *Moonlight* (cream) grow up to 1.5m in a year! Both will flower all year if they are happy. Both will need side branches pruning to get the tree out of the bush.

So if you want a small tree in your garden - check out the shrubs you have in it already - one might do the job for you if you get out your pruning saw and loppers.

~ Alec



Alec in the shade of *Acacia fimbriata* 'Dwarf'



The Book Shelf

The Waterwise Garden

In this timely book, organic gardening guru Jeffrey Hodges explains how to make the most of our precious water resources to create and maintain a healthy, flourishing garden.

This practical manual includes tips for vegetable gardening in a dry climate. \$29.95



Teapots & Tractors:

A cookbook and memoirs by Margaret Charlesworth.

This wonderful and inspiring book is about fresh farm food. The recipes are illustrated with hand drawings and uplifting sayings.



A great gift @ \$24.95

Children's Books

The book shelf has a number of locally produced children's books that delight the children in our life, and the child in us!

• 'Where's Stripey' by Wendy Binks

• 'Tuart Dwellers' by Jan Ramage & Ellen Hickman



• 'A Tale of Two Honey Possums' by Felicity Bradshaw & Patricia Negus

What's New

Christmas is coming!

There is plenty of stock coming in for Christmas including new Christmas card designs in singles and packs.

Many of our gift suppliers are Western Australian including:

Blue Wren Designs (cards and bookmarks), Bellart (placemats, coasters and stationery), Little Hugs Workshop (cards), Woodwares (hand crafted wooden items for table and games), Mount Romance (candles, soaps, shampoos, etc), Corrynnes (soaps, shampoos, moisturisers, etc), Simply Lavender (room fresheners), Thurlby (hand made fragrant products).



Other gifts are sourced from other parts of Australia:

Linen Press (hand creams and soaps), Buttonworks (coasters, memo pads and bookmarks), Windsong Chimes (precision tuned wind chimes) Annabel Trends (textiles, gloves, aprons & more).

Call in soon for some great gift ideas.

~ Lorretta



Annabel Trends Gloves

Sprout garden gloves are made from comfortable stretch fabrics of lycra and goat skin. Sturdy, adjustable and in four cute colours: red, magenta, royal blue and wasabi green. \$19.95



Ee-i-ee-i-o Farm Animals

The ever popular and amusing range of ee-i-ee-i-o have released Henry the Horse and Billy the Goat, that should arrive in time for Christmas. A welcome addition to Sid the Sheep, Clarence the Cow, Bruce the Bull, Roger the Rooster, Percy the Pig and Doris the Duck. Prices start from \$65



Caroline Mitchell decorations

The adorable, hand crafted sparkly flora and fauna inspired decorations from Caroline Mitchell are back with new creations to add to your collection. Perfect for an unusual gift or to decorate the tree or table at Christmas. \$19.95 each



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