



SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Spring has sprung, the grass has riz and gardening is where the action is!

It isn't only seedlings that are stirring in spring, in fact our good earth is teeming with life. Now is the time to get our gardens ready for summer

Most importantly this season *create a plan*: Very importantly, think about your goals before you get started. You may want to add a vegetable patch; or add more containers to your garden; maybe you would like to improve the design and shape of the garden or just create another flower bed, irrespective of what it is you wish to do, the secret is planning, planning and still more planning...



SPRING - Clean your garden

Weeding is an essential part to keeping your garden healthy year round. Remove as many weeds as you can, before they flower and go to seed. Tidy up the entire garden cleaning fallen leaves and debris from winter.

- Prune and shape any frost damaged or shaggy plants.
- Towards the end of September pinch back fuchsia and daisy bushes.
- This is the best time to lift and divide perennials.
- Remove winter annuals, replace these with summer annuals.. Early fruiting trees, should be sprayed when 80% of petals have dropped. A suggested product is Lebaycid or an organic alternative.
- The eggs of slugs and snails are hatching out infact all kinds of biting, sucking insects are being born and somehow or other there are always a few very old and hungry cutworms waiting to rack havoc in the garden (be on the look out!)
- Feed strawberries, roses and the entire garden with 3.1.5. fertiliser.
- Sow nasturtium seeds for use in summer salads.
- Plant summer flowering bulbs, such as:- nerines, storm lilies, lilies, crocosmia or dahlias, gladioli and the pine-apple lily. Remember to also feed bulbs that have finished flowering to provide nutrients for next season.
- Remember spring can be hot and dry so keep your plants well watered. Be water wise and spread a layer of mulch or grow ground covers in all beds to retain moisture and keep plants cool in summer.
- Be sure to stake up plants that could be damaged by strong winds.
- Spring is a great time to clean out ponds and water features.
- Remove the old potting soil around all your contained plants up to root level and fill up with fresh soil or replant into larger containers where necessary.

Perfect Lawn Care!

Aerate and scarify your lawn to allow easier penetration of air, water and fertilise. Cover with a fine layer of lawn dressing to stimulate new growth and improve condition of the soil. Feed the lawn with a nitrogen rich fertiliser, these are just two of a wide range that is available 2.3.3. or Fertilawn. Water well before and after the application. Remember not to cut grass too short in shady areas, as the more leaf surface there is the more food it can produce.

September is Arbor Month!

Arbor month was first celebrated in South Africa in 1983, it is celebrated in order to make us all more aware of the great value of planting trees. There are always three trees that are nominated as trees of the year, some are indigenous and others exotic. Two of the trees nominated for 2012 are *Syzygium Cordatum* (the water berry) this is a beautiful indigenous tree, that is home to many birds and *Protorus Longifolia* (red beech) which is a very large tree, becomes covered in pinkish green flowers from July to September.



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