



Design tricks for small gardens

When creating rooms in a small garden, use the vertical aspect to increase the sense of depth and maximise space. Think living walls or wall-mounted planters; add a mirror or paint a mural of a landscape on the wall to create a sense of borrowed scenery. Keep your rooms simple and uncluttered, limit plant varieties and stick to a single theme.

Plant bright, warm colours in front of beds and light colours at the back to make the space seem bigger. Curved paths that are wider at the beginning and narrow further away create the illusion of distance. For the same reason, use plants with large, coarsely textured foliage in the front, those with medium textured leaves in the middle and fine, small leafed plants at the back.

Nail the Snail



If you have a problem with snails in the garden, remember to put out 'snail bait' in the later afternoon as snails are most active at night.

The New Year always brings with it new beginnings and typically we all have our 'New Years' resolutions – however, these generally are broken in the first few weeks! However, here are some resolutions that can easily be kept:-

- 1) Rather do lots of **small gardening jobs**, than nothing at all. Large complicated gardening jobs are intimidating and as a result often never materialise. Break down your gardening jobs in **'bite size chunks'** – keep it simple!
- 2) Remember to **fertilise and deadhead** regularly to make the colour last longer.
- 3) Plant **perennials** as they last longer, offering great value for money. Also, **stagger** your perennial plantings so there is always something in flower somewhere in the garden.
- 4) Make a mental note to buy at least **one new plant** with each visit to the garden centre. This does not have to be a **large or expensive** purchase, but by doing so you will continually be improving your garden in general.

Your garden in February

- Cut back foliage on summer flowering bulbs as well as pruning annuals and perennials.
- Mulch all your acid loving plants (azaleas, camellias and gardenias with acid compost)
- Cuttings can be taken of herbs such as 'lavender and rosemary' these cuttings can be taken from the tips of mature plants.
- Remember the best time to water your garden at the moment, is early in the morning this is because plants cope on a hot day better - when the soil is sufficiently moist! During the late summer months, citrus trees are most vulnerable to a little insect call 'Citrus Pyslla' these insects cause the leaf to have a 'bubble' appearance, eventually causes the leaves to fall off the tree – a very good organic product to use is Oleum.



The Veggie Patch In February.

Nothing can be tastier or more rewarding, than home grown veggies! Bush beans, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kohlrabi, leeks, radishes and spinach. Remember onions are best planted in March.

February is the month of love

Share this love with your garden! You can do so, by practising **water-wise gardening**, one way of doing this would be to collect rain water from your drain pipes, this water can now be used to hand-water your pots or other garden plants.



OUR NEXT MEETING

Date: 15th February
Time: 1:30pm for 2:00pm
Venue: Lifestyle Lecture Hall
Topic: New ideas for a new years Garden