

— October —  
**Garden Guide**

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- Feature Plant -  
**Hibiscus**

Bring a bit of the tropics into your garden with some dramatic, bold and colourful hibiscus!

**Choose a Variety:** Choosing a variety is not just a case of picking a flower colour; there are single, semi-double and double blooms in a wide variety of shades from soft yellow and burnt orange, red and burgundy to mauve, peach and hot pink. There is also plenty of choice when it comes to size as well, as Hibiscus are available in dwarf shrub form through to large trees.

**Where to Plant:** Choosing a position with at least 6-8 hours a day of sun is the key to productive flowering. Hibiscus thrive in subtropical and tropical regions, but can tolerate some cooler climates if the location is frost-free. A full sun position is best, out of any strong winds.

Your hibiscus will perform best in well-drained, slightly acidic soil. If your soil type is heavy clay or light sandy, you will need to improve the soil before planting. Adding in a large amount of compost and well-rotted animal manure will boost organic matter and create the right mix for your new plants. Super Booster, being based on composted manure is ideal for this.

Hibiscus also do well in containers, just ensure the potting mix includes plenty of composted material and doesn't dry out easily.

**Watering:** Hibiscus love water and respond really well to be watered regularly, especially during the growing season. Keep the soil moist, but not soggy with a weekly watering and plenty of mulch. If the weather is particularly hot and dry you may need to increase watering. Take care not to water the foliage, as this can encourage mildew.



**Fertilising:** A good balanced fertiliser like Katek Rose & Flower will help produce healthy colourful blooms and keep the plants in great condition. Because hibiscus bloom on new growth, it is important to feed the plant regularly. Applications of Rose & Flower every 4-6 weeks during Spring and through to Winter will provide your hibiscus with the nutrients it needs to produce mass flowers.

Regular applications of a seaweed concentrate like Katek Neptune or Super Growth Liquid Fertiliser will also benefit plant growth and health.

**Mulching:** Regular mulching will keep the roots moist and cool, especially during hot weather. Keep mulch away from the stem.

**Pruning:** The start of the growing season (August, September) is the best time to give your hibiscus a good prune back. Remove any weak or dead branches by pruning above a bud. Throughout the growing season, regular pruning and shaping will result in a flush of new growth and blooms.





# What to Plant

— NOW —

## Flowers:

### Cool Climate/Temperate Climate

Amaranthus, aster, balsam, begonia, carnation, chrysanthemum, cockscomb, coleus, cosmos, dahlia, dianthus, everlasting daisy, gazania, gerbera, impatiens, marigold, nasturtium, petunia, phlox, Iceland poppy, portulaca, rudbeckia, salvia, snapdragon, sunflower, torenia, verbena and zinnia.

### Sub-Tropical Climate

Ageratum, aster, balsam, carnation, chrysanthemum, cockscomb, coleus, cosmos, dahlia, dianthus, everlasting daisy, gazania, geranium, gerbera, impatiens, kangaroo paw, marigold, nasturtium, petunia, portulaca, rudbeckia, salvia, snapdragon, sunflower, torenia, verbena and zinnia

### Tropical Climate

Ageratum, amaranthus, begonia, chrysanthemum, cockscomb, coleus, cosmos, dahlia, dianthus, everlasting daisy, gazania, geranium, gerbera, impatiens, kangaroo paw, marigold, nasturtium, petunia, portulaca, rudbeckia, salvia, snapdragon, sunflower, torenia, verbena and zinnia.

## Herbs & Vegetables:

### Cool Climate/Temperate Climate

Artichoke, asparagus, beetroot, broad beans, broccoli, Brussels sprout, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, celery, endive, leek, lettuce, onion, peas, snow peas, silver beet, spinach and radish. chives, curry, dill, mint, parsley, sage and thyme. chives, curry, dill, mint, parsley, sage and thyme.

### Sub-Tropical Climate

Beans, beetroot, broccoli, cabbage, capsicum, carrot, chicory, Chinese cabbage, cucumber, eggplant, lettuce, melons, mustard, onion, parsnip, potato, pumpkin, radish, rosella, silver beet, squash, sweet corn, sweet potato, tomato and watermelon. basil, chives, coriander, dill, mint, oregano, parsley, sage and thyme.

### Tropical Climate

Beans, beetroot, broccoli, Chinese cabbage, capsicum, cucumber, eggplant, endive, lettuce, melons, okra, onion, parsnip, potato, pumpkin, radish, rhubarb, rosella, silver beet, spring onion, squash, sweet corn, sweet potato, tomato and zucchini. silver beet, spinach, squash, sweet potato, pumpkin, tomato, watermelon and zucchini.

*“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow”*

Audrey Hepburn

## Did You Know?

The green bean has disease fighting tendencies! The lutein content found in all varieties is said to fight off macular degeneration and blindness!

## POTTING MIX

### THE BEST MIX FOR YOUR POTTED PLANTS!

Organic Enriched, Premium Potting Mix for both Indoor & Outdoor Use.

**Added Water Saving Crystals** for moisture retention

**Added Slow Release Fertiliser** for sustained growth

**Trace Elements** for balanced plant nutrition
















# Tasks in the Garden

## — NOW —

-  **Plant Citrus:** Plant new citrus trees with a couple handfuls of composted pellets like Super Booster or Super Growth. They will build organic matter in the soil and provide essential nutrients for the growing trees.
-  **Pruning:** Cut back all tropical plants like cordylines and crotons, they will reshoot in the warmer weather.
-  **Mulch:** Re-mulch your garden beds as the weather starts to warm up. The ideal depth is about 10cm deep to stop weeds growing through. Not Just Mulch is perfect as it gives the plants a boost of nutrients as well as keeping moisture in!
-  **Perennials:** Time to plant summer perennials like gerberas, daylillies, canna lillies and calibrachoa
-  **Fertilise Lawns:** Give lawns a good dose of fertiliser like Lawn & Garden to help revive any dead patches and boost organic matter. Super Feed liquid fertiliser sprayed over the lawn will help green up a lawn that is looking sad.
-  **Orchids:** Divide orchids that have started to be crowded in the pot.
-  **Watering:** Keep up a regular watering regime as the weather starts to warm up. A good layer of mulch will mean you can cut back on watering as the moisture will stay in the soil.
-  **Add Organic Matter:** A composted manure fertiliser like Super Booster or Super Growth is an easy way to add organic matter to the soil to help improve water holding capacity and provide nutrients for the growing plants.
-  **Fruits:** Give citrus and fruit trees a feed of fertiliser. Lightly trim passion-fruit vines to encourage new growth. Mulch around the base of your trees.

## Spring Fertilising

Super Growth Pellets around vegetables & herbs, fruit trees & flowering plants for healthy, green growth

Super Grass over the lawn to help it become lush and green after the drier winter period

Super Growth or Super Booster in the planting hole or dug through the beds for new plantings

Natives may need a boost with Super Growth or Neptune to encourage flowering.

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