

— April —

Garden Guide

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- Feature Plant - Dragon Fruit

Dragon Fruit is a strange looking fruit, but despite their odd appearance they have a delicious tropical taste and are easy growing when they are in a sunny position.

Where to plant: Dragon fruit come in a couple main varieties. *Hylocereus undatus* with white flesh and pink/red skin, *Hylocereus Megalanthus* with white flesh and yellow skin or *Hylocereus costaricensis* with purple red flesh and pink/red skin.

The cactus plant that the dragon fruit grow on love a warm, humid spot that gets at least 6 hours of sunlight each day. They can also be grown in an indoor position in a large pot. As a cactus, they prefer a sandy, slightly acidic soil that is boosted with composted manure pellets, such as Katek Super Booster. A sturdy, thick trellis or post is needed as the plant will need support as it grows.

Dragon fruit take 5 to 7 years to produce fruit, so purchasing as a cutting or established plant is ideal if you want to cut that time down to 1 to 3 years instead.

Watering: It is important not to overwater your dragon fruit if you have heavy soil. The soil should preferably be free draining and not water logged as too much water can cause the roots to rot. Being a sub tropical plant, it should be kept moist and not allowed to dry out completely.

Fertilising: When first planting out your dragon fruit a dose of diluted Katek Neptune Seaweed Concentrate will help with transplant shock and root establishment. A regular regime of Neptune every 6 to 8 weeks can help overall plant health.

A balanced fertiliser like Katek's Super Growth in Spring through to Autumn will slowly release the nutrients as they break down into the soil, encouraging healthy growth.

Harvesting: The dragon fruit flower appears in the evening and will only last one night. Once the fruit appears it is generally ready in around 4 weeks. The skin will turn a vibrant pink shade when ready to pick.



To eat, scoop out the fleshy fruit and add to a smoothie, chop up into a tropical fruit salad or just grab a spoon and dig in!

What to Plant

— NOW —

Flowers:

Cool Climate/Temperate Climate

Alyssum, aurora daisy, cineraria, cornflower, cyclamen, English daisy, French marigold, Iceland poppy, lobelia, lupin, pansy, polyanthus, primula, snapdragon, stock, strawflower, sweet pea and viola.

Sub-Tropical Climate

Ageratum, alyssum, candytuft, carnation, cineraria, coreopsis, cornflower, cyclamen, delphinium, dianthus, everlasting daisy, Iceland poppy, impatiens, marigolds, sweet pea and viola.

Tropical Climate

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

Herbs & Vegetables:

Cool Climate/Temperate Climate

Chives, coriander, garlic, lemongrass, marjoram, mint, oregano, parsley, rosemary, shallots, tarragon and thyme. broad bean, beetroot, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, Chinese broccoli, Chinese cabbage, English spinach, leek, lettuce, onion, parsnip, potatoes, silver beet, swede and turnip.

Sub-Tropical Climate

Chervil, chicory, coriander, fennel, garlic bulbs, lavender, marjoram, oregano, parsley, rocket, sage, sorrel, rosemary, thyme, winter tarragon, yarrow. Plant broad beans, broccoli, lettuce, onion, peas, radish, shallots, spinach, spring onion and turnip.

Tropical Climate

Beans, beetroot, broccoli, cabbage, capsicum, carrot, cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, cucumber, eggplant, lettuce, melons, mustard, okra, onion, parsnip, potato, pumpkin, radish, rosella, silver beet, squash, sweet corn, sweet potato, tomato and zucchini. basil, coriander, garlic, garlic chives, marjoram, oregano, parsley, thyme and winter tarragon.

*“Always do your best.
What you plant now,
you will harvest
later”*

Og Mandino

Quick Tip

If you are growing herbs out of their preferred climate, its best to growt them in pots!

ROSE & FLOWER FERTILIZER

ORGANIC BASED

Specially formulated for strong healthy plant growth with optimum nutrition for growing an abundance of bright, colourful blooms!

For Roses & Flowering Plants









Added Trace Elements for balanced plant nutrition
N 5.7% P 1.4% K 7.2%





Tasks in the Garden

— NOW —

-  **Bulbs:** Now is the time to start planting out your bulbs for beautiful blooms come Spring! Some favourites are daffodils, freesias, bluebells & hyacinths.
-  **Planting:** Autumn is a great time to plant trees, natives, ground-cover, hedges and winter flowers. That way they are established before the cooler winter season arrives!
-  **Supercal for Heavy Clay Soils:** If you have problem spots in the garden with heavy, compacted clay soil, spray some Super Cal Liquid Clay Breaker over the soil to break up the clay and improve drainage and soil structure.
-  **Deadheading Flowers:** Going through the garden and removing spent flowers encourages the growth of new flowers. The bonus is that the plants will look much tidier as well.
-  **Fertilising:** April is good timing to fertilise throughout the garden. An organic all purpose fertiliser like Super Growth Pellets is perfect for giving the entire garden a lift.
-  **Repotting:** Re-pot plants that have outgrown their pots. A good quality Potting mix can make all the difference when it comes to healthy plants. You can place your plant in a larger pot or remove some of the root ball and re-pot with fresh potting mix.
-  **Green Manures:** Grow a green manure crop like oats, millet or field peas to improve the soil in your vege patch.
-  **Feed Indoor Plants:** Give your indoor plants a feed of Neptune Seaweed and a sprinkling of Super Growth pellets to keep them looking lush.

Autumn Fertilising

Neptune Seaweed Concentrate on vegetables & herbs, fruit trees & flowering plants to keep them healthy.

Lawn & Garden Booster over the lawn to revive it after the summer heat.

Super Phoska Citrus & Fruit or Super Growth for fruit trees.

Natives may need a boost with Super Booster for healthy new growth.

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