

— May —

Garden Guide

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- Feature Plant - Sunflower

The big bright smiley faces of the sunflower will bring a burst of colour to your garden! These are easy flowers to grow all year round. Not only the brown centres that ripen into heavy heads filled with seeds are a drawcard for birds and bees.

Where to plant: Common varieties are heat and drought tolerant and are able to be grown in all different climates. Plant where they receive plenty of sunshine, around 6 to 8 hours a day is ideal. Plant in soil that is well drained and rich in organic matter. Digging in an organic composted poultry manure fertiliser like Super Booster before planting will help improve the soil and provide a slow release of nutrients for the growing plant.

There are varieties that are suited to pots if you are short on space. Plant in a good quality potting mix that provides structure for the growing plant and holds moisture.

Sunflowers can range from a dwarf variety at 30-50cm tall through to the giant 1.5-2m varieties. For tall or giant varieties of sunflower, a stake is helpful to stop the plant falling over. A sheltered position out of strong winds will also help when growing these top-heavy beauties.

Watering: A good deep watering on a regular basis is needed for the first month to ensure the plant is well established. After that, watering can be cut back.

Fertilising: When the buds are first noticeable a dose of liquid potash is useful to encourage large, healthy blooms.

A scattering of Rose & Flower fertiliser around the base at about the 4 week mark provides a slow release of nutrients to keep the plant growing and encourage blooms.



Harvesting Seeds: The seeds of a sunflower can be dried for the next harvest or used in the kitchen. It is best to let the head dry out on the plant at first. If pesky birds decide to come and snack on your seeds, cover with a paper bag or some bird netting.

Once the flowers are looking spent and shrivelled, cut the head and store upside down somewhere out of the weather to further dry out.



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.

"In all things of nature there is something of the marvellous"

Aristotle

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.

Did you Know?

Rosemary can be used to make tea that will wake you up and keep you alert. It's the herbal alternative to coffee or caffeinated energy drinks

CITRUS & FRUIT FERTILIZER

SUPER PHOSKA + TRACE ELEMENTS

A complete formula for an abundance of delicious healthy fruit!

High Yields developed with sulphate of potash and added trace elements

Potassium for optimum fruit development

Slow release Phosphorus to carry the crop right through to harvest


N 7.4% P 3.1% K 6.9%





Tasks in the Garden

— NOW —

-  **Fertilising:** A good feed of Super Growth or Super Booster will benefit your gardenias, azaleas, magnolias, camellias and rhododendrons at this time.
-  **Planting:** Sweet peas and bulbs can be planted now. Garlic and onions planted now will be ready to harvest in late Spring.
-  **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.
-  **Pruning:** Going through the garden and removing spent flowers and giving the shrubs a prune back will encourage new growth.
-  **Citrus:** Add some mulch around your citrus trees to help them keep in moisture and aid the growing crop. Fertilise with Citrus & Fruit fertiliser.
-  **Roses:** It is good timing to prepare beds for planting out bare-root roses. Dig in a product like Super Growth which is rich in organic matter.
-  **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. Cut back on watering now the weather is cooling off.
-  **Mulch:** Add some mulch on vege gardens, ornamentals to keep the weeds down. Add some fertiliser under the mulch to release slowly as the mulch breaks down.
-  **Seaweed:** To aid plant health this time of year, water every 3 weeks with Neptune Seaweed Liquid to build up pest and disease resistance.

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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