

— December —  
*Garden Guide*

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- Feature Plant -  
*Lettuce*

Crunchy, crisp & delicious for your summer salads! An annual veggie that is easy to grow in a wide range of different types. These include your typical heart based varieties like Iceberg or a range of red, purple, green leafy salad varieties.

**Where to Plant:** You can grow lettuce very easily from seeds, but seedlings are quicker and provide an earlier harvest. If growing in a cooler region find a location that receives part sun, however in hotter regions a shady spot that receives only morning sunshine will be perfect. Lettuce plants can be grown in pots or garden beds in well-drained soil. Make sure to mulch around your plants to keep the soil and roots cool and weeds at bay.

**Watering:** If establishing your plants from seed be sure to keep the soil moist but not soaked and keep them shaded until they are well established, especially if planting in the summer heat.

A regular watering of established plants every couple of days should be all that is needed to keep your lettuce growing strong but don't over water as this can cause the plant to wilt and rot.

**Fertilising:** When prepping your soil in a garden bed be sure to add some poultry manure pellets to the soil and turn it in well. We recommend a slow release variety like our Super Growth or Super Booster fertiliser. If planting into pots be sure to use a good quality potting mix like our Superior Blend Potting Mix. Lettuce will benefit from a dose of Katek Neptune seaweed liquid every couple of weeks to keep the roots growing strong and the plants healthy.

**Harvesting:** If planted from seed you should be reaping a bountiful harvest around 25 days afterwards for the leafy salad varieties and from 40-80 days for the larger hearting varieties.



# What to Plant

— NOW —

## Flowers:

### Cool Climate/Temperate Climate

Ageratum, alyssum, boronia, calceolaria, cleome, cyclamen, iceland poppy, linaria, malope, marigold, pansy, schizanthus, stock, verbena, vinca, viola, wallflower.

### Sub-Tropical Climate

Ageratum, aster, balsam, celosia, cockscomb, coleus, gomphrenan, impatiens, marigold, salvia, sunflower, torenia, vinca, zinnia.

### Tropical Climate

Balsam, celosia, cockscomb, coleus, gomphrena, marigold, petunia, salvia, sunflowers, torenia, vinca.

*“Why not go out on a limb? That’s where the fruit is”*

Mark Twain

## Herbs & Vegetables:

### Cool Climate/Temperate Climate

Beans, beetroot, cabbage, capsicum, carrot, cauliflower, cucumber, spinach, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, onion, parsnip, pumpkin, radish, silver beet.

### Sub-Tropical Climate

Artichoke, beans, capsicum, celery, chinese cabbage, cucumber, eggplant, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, watermelons, rockmelons, okra, onion, potato, pumpkin, radish, rhubarb, rosella, silver beet, spring onion, squash, sweet corn, sweet potato, tomato.

### Tropical Climate

Artichoke, beetroot, capsicum, cauliflower, celery, chinese cabbage, cucumber, eggplant, lettuce, pumpkin, radish, shallots, spring onion, tomato.

### *Did You Know?*

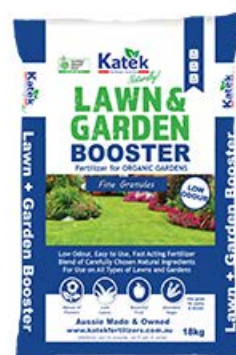
The fig that you eat is not actually a fruit but the remains of an inverted flower!

## LAWN & GARDEN BOOSTER

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# Tasks in the Garden

## — NOW —

-  **Herbs:** Continually harvest herbs to keep them trim and shapely. A good dose of Blood & Bone Plus or Super Growth pellets will keep them healthy and producing good yields.
-  **Weeding & Mulching:** The garden will really benefit from a good weeding this month before things get too out of control! Re-mulch your garden beds if needed, ready for Summer. 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!
-  **Seaweed:** Manage heat stress by giving plants a water with a liquid seaweed every 2-3 weeks. This will help strengthen the cell walls and is good for overall plant health and disease resistance.
-  **Potted Plants:** Move potted plants that prefer the cool or shade if they are now in a sunny position. Feed with a slow release fertiliser to maintain healthy growth.
-  **Watering:** Keep up a regular watering regime when the weather is hot. Watering early morning or late afternoon is more effective than in the heat of the day.
-  **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 like Mango or Bananas a good feed of fertiliser like Citrus & Fruit. Lightly trim passionfruit vines to encourage new growth and feed with Blood & Bone Plus. Mulch around the base of your trees.

## Summer Fertilising

Neptune around the entire garden to help manage heat stress

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

Lawn & Garden Booster over the lawn to help maintain lush green growth

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

Enquiries: 07 54861141 or [admin@katek.com.au](mailto:admin@katek.com.au)

