

— January —
Garden Guide

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- Feature Plant -
Basil

Fragrant and a prolific grower, Basil is a tasty addition to any kitchen garden. A shrub like bush that can be harvested again and again, there are so many recipes to try using this versatile herb.

Basil comes in several varieties, each with their own unique flavour. Sweet Basil is the most common, with Thai Basil and its liquorice aroma the next most popular variety. Lime, Cinnamon & Lemon basil are also great options.

Where to Plant: Growing basil is relatively easy. They do well in soil that has been improved so the addition of Blood & Bone Plus or Super Booster for extra nutrition through to harvest and improved drainage. If planting into pots a good quality potting mix will help plants thrive.

When planting a full sun to partly shaded spot is ideal. Basil likes warmth, but will need shade from the strong afternoon sun in hot climates.

Watering: Moist soil that is not water logged is ideal. When the weather is hot, regular watering is needed. Leaves can become affected by disease so watering the base of the plant can help prevent this.

Fertilising: Once the plant has reached seedling size, a boost from liquid seaweed like Neptune will help produce healthy leaves and keep the plants in great condition. Super Growth pellets around the base every 4 weeks will help deliver the nutrients needed for healthy growth.

Mulching: Mulching is beneficial to keep moisture in the soil and weeds at bay.

Harvesting: Quick growing, leaves can be harvested from as early as 6 weeks after sowing. Pick as you need and pinch out any flowers to ensure continual growth.



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!

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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.

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