



## Winter Gardening Guide

Winter is nature's resting time and a period of dormancy for many plants in the garden. However, for the gardener, it is not a time to hibernate or laze around in front of the fire as there are many jobs to be done in the garden. Winter is an excellent time to plant trees and shrubs. Roses and fruit trees have arrived along with new seasons ornamental deciduous trees.

### Roses

Now is the time to plant bare rooted roses. We have hundreds of varieties to choose from - see our latest catalogue online for our full range. When planting your roses ensure that they are pruned to an outward pointing bud and any small or weak stems are removed. It is advisable to add some Chandlers Organic Compost and Plants Plus Rose Fertilizer to the soil and mix well just prior to planting. A lime sulphur spray in winter will help protect them against fungal diseases that may appear in the spring. Please see our fact sheets online for full details.

## **Fruit Trees**

If you wish to discover the delights of tasting fresh fruit from your own garden orchard, then now is the time to plant new seasons fruit trees. Please see our catalogue online for our full list of varieties including berry fruits and citrus trees. Our trained staff will happily prune your trees in preparation for planting. We suggest the addition of Chandlers Organic Compost and Plants Plus Fruit and Citrus Food at planting. This should be mixed through your soil and don't forget to water them well. Winter spraying of dormant fruit trees is important to protect against fungal disease that shows up in the spring. We have developed our own program for spraying – see the spraying program on our website.

## **Vegie Garden**

There is still plenty to do in the vegetable garden at this time of year. Seedlings of broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and kale can all still be planted along with winter spinach, silverbeet, lettuce, peas and broad beans. Seeds of onions can be sown directly into garden beds as can All Seasons carrots if the position is warm. Snow peas, peas and broad beans can all be directly sown. Certified seed potatoes have also arrived into the nursery. We have 2kg packs of all the popular varieties. Seed potatoes can be planted now in frost free areas or purchased and stored until danger of frosts has passed. Rhubarb and asparagus crowns are in their dormant state and ready to be planted through winter but get in early before stocks run out. Garlic cloves can also still be planted. We stock Tasmanian garlic that is far superior to anything that you will purchase in the supermarket. Green manure crops can still be planted in preparation for spring planting. Manure and compost can be dug into vacant beds in preparation for spring. Lime can also be applied to the ground if needed. If you are not sure of the PH of your soil we have testing kits available that are simple and easy to use.

# Ornamental Garden

New seasons bare rooted deciduous trees arrive in June so it's the perfect time to add some foliage colour or spring blossom to your garden. Please see our catalogue online for our full range. Sasanqua camellias are still flowering in winter and there is still plenty of stock available. These camellias are sun tolerant and make good medium evergreen hedges. A new variety that is available is Camellia "Sweet Jane". This plant has delicate pale pink flowers that bloom from late autumn through to early spring however it will require some protection from the hot afternoon sun. Many varieties of azaleas commence flowering in the winter so now is a great time to plant as new seasons stock has just arrived. Also rhododendrons will commence flowering from mid-winter and there are plenty of varieties to choose from. When planting camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons add some Plants Plus Camellia and Azalea Food and mix Chandlers Organic compost through the soil. The flower garden can look inviting and colourful in winter. Instant colour can be added to garden beds by using potted pansy, viola and polyanthus. Seedlings can be planted of cineraria, cyclamen, lobelia, pansy, primula, polyanthus, primrose and viola. These will give colour through winter and spring.

# Maintenance

Winter is also a time for maintenance in the garden. Fruit trees and roses should be pruned during this period and spraying schedule commenced. Please see our fact sheets for details. Heavy pruning of trees and shrubs should also be done at this time of year. Remember that if it is a spring flowering plant it probably won't flower until next year. Winter is also a good time to transplant - make sure the plant is moist, use a sharp spade and take as much soil as possible with the root ball. Some pruning may also be necessary. Winter is also a good time of year mulch in preparation for the busy spring period.