

GardenMail



GardenShop's Monthly eZine



February 2010

Dear Gardener

With all the rain we have had in Johannesburg and many other parts of the country gardening is going to be such a pleasure. You can safely and confidently plant new shrubs, lawns and trees with the peace of mind that they are getting the best start ever!

The ground is saturated and this is also ideal to continue with mulching and adding organic material to all your beds. It is also an excellent time to sow vegetable and herb seeds before the soil gets too cold. Look out for the new season's seed stock that will make its way to our garden centers.

It is so rewarding to turn your soil, or to loosen up bald patches on your lawn and adding organic material like mulch or lawn dressing. Give back to your soil and you will be rewarded tenfold with healthy and sustainable growth.

Happy gardening

What to do in your garden in February

- Deadhead plants like roses, cannas, agapanthus, daisy bushes, pelargoniums and dahlias - this will keep your garden looking tidy and will encourage more flowers
- Divide easy to grow perennials and groundcovers like agapanthus, wild iris, red hot pokers, ornamental grasses and day lilies.
- Control snails naturally by sprinkling crushed eggshells, macadamia nut shells or sawdust around the plants
- Take cuttings of easy-to-grow plant favourites like fuchsias, daisies, germaniums, penstemons and salvias
- Sow vegetable seeds like beans, beetroot, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, onion, parsley, peas, rhubarb, radish, spinach and turnip
- Sow herb seeds like anise, basil, borage, caraway, celery, chervil, chives, coriander, dill, fennel, garlic chives, garden cress, marjoram, parsley, rosemary, sage, summer savoury, tarragon, thyme.
- Start preparing trenches for sweet pea seed planting
- Renew mulch to keep beds cool and to retain water



February GardenValues



Mandevilla sanderii 'Red Sunsatation'

Semi-climber with stunning, unique and unusual red flowers. Will grow to a height of 50cm.

GardenValue :: R69.95



Ludwig's Vigorosa 750g

Ludwig's Vigorosa is a well balanced organically enriched granular fertiliser, which contains all the essential nutrients. A well-balanced blend of chemical and organic components in one fertiliser.

GardenValue :: R29.95



Ludwig's Insecticide Spray 500ml

Organic insecticide for the control of small bodied insects such as aphids, red spider mite, white fly (should also control insects like mealy bug, scale and Australian bug).

GardenValue :: R99.95



Margaret Roberts Herb Seed Packets

Selection of herbs seeds to sow now for autumn and winter harvest.

GardenValue :: R9.95



Spathiphyllum 15 cm

Indoor plant that is also commonly known as the Peace Lily. Excellent for low light areas.

GardenValue :: R29.95

Offers expire end of February 2010.

Green Snippet of the Month - Soil Health

Decaying organic matter is how plants are fed in nature. It would be so much more beneficial to allow the fallen leaves to blow off into the bushes, where they will not only feed the soil, they also prevent erosion and mulch the soil. Organic matter includes compost (e.g. grass clippings, leaves, and straw), kraal manure and wood chip mulch.



Growing Coriander



Coriander is a highly fragrant annual herb. Coriander is sometimes known as Chinese parsley. Coriander is grown for both its seeds and leaves and both are used for culinary purposes. The leaves can be used raw in salads, sandwiches and salsas or in cooked items such as bread or curry.



Sow outdoors while the soil temperatures are still warm as this will promote successful germination. It is better to plant them directly into soil, sow them about 1cm deep and about 4cm apart. Cover with soil/compost and water gently. The seeds will take about two weeks to germinate and at this stage you can thin them out to about 20cm apart.

If growing in containers then make sure the container is at least 15cm deep so that the tap root can develop.



Coriander should be sown every few weeks to ensure a continuous crop through the growing season. Like most herbs, Coriander likes a minimum of 4 hours sunshine a day is recommended.

Liquid fertiliser can be applied to the soil every few weeks to promote growth.

A shock to the plants system such as lack of water or a significant drop in temperature will cause Coriander to bolt (start producing seed). Do not overwater Coriander as it does not like its roots to stand in water. You can start to harvest the leaves after the plant has reached 10cm in height and continue to harvest mature leave to encourage further growth.



GardenGuru in Menlo Park

Helping you make the most of your garden. At GardenShop Menlo Park, not only can they provide the best products for your garden, but they also offer a cost-effective solution for those nagging garden issues.



GardenShop's GardenGuru service is here to solve your gardening problems and queries, offering practical planting and design solution in the comfort of your own garden. Allowing you to then implement these ideas at your own pace.



The Service:

The service will allow for a one hour consultation in your own garden where you can discuss your unique gardening problems such as:

- Design and plant solutions for difficult sites, slopes and soils.
- How to deal with awkward or odd shaped areas
- How to create a focal point
- Which plants to remove, move, replace or highlight
- Low maintenance ideas
- How to care for your special plants
- Any insect, fungal or seed problems that might plague you



Please note that due to the low cost, no sketches or design drawing can be produced.

The cost is just R350*

**Please note, payment is required prior to the GardenGuru consultation. This cost refers to visits within a 5- 10 km radius of GardenShop Pretoria. Visits further a field can be arranged at a small cost.*

To book a GardenGuru consultation call GardenShop Menlo Park on 012 460 5137 and speak to Johan.



Contacting Us

To provide you with excellent service we have a team of dedicated and passionate gardening experts and there are several ways of directing your gardening queries to us:

Visit our website: www.gardenshop.co.za, call 0861 G A R D E N or alternatively email us on info@gardenshop.co.za.

National Contact Centre: 0861 G-A-R-D-E-N (427336)



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