

GardenMail



GardenShop's Monthly eZine



March 2010

Dear Gardener

March starts bringing in the spring flowering bulbs, winter seedlings and if you want to grow your own sweetpeas now is the time to prepare your sweetpea trenches.

Still with high temperatures you have to make sure your grass doesn't get too dry, your plants and flowers aren't wilting and your garden is well looked after. The slowing of summer gives us time to prepare the garden for the cooler months in autumn and winter - so it's best to get as many nutrients into your plants and flowers as soon as possible to keep them strong through the approaching winter.

Berries are nature's super fruits and this autumn season GardenShop is delighted to offer our garden enthusiasts a variety of different berry plants that will certainly be an asset and delight to anyone who is already growing or wanting to grow their own edible crops. These berries are bursting with a host of culinary and medicinal properties, so don't hesitate to get some of these plants into your garden.

In April we are having an evening talk aimed at all of us who want to garden more with wildlife in mind. For more information and for booking visit our website on www.gardenshop.co.za.

Happy gardening

What to do in you garden in March

- Prepare garden beds for spring flowering bulbs
- Lift your dahlia tubers, cutting the stems 10cm long. Dry and clean the tubers before packing them in vermiculite and storing them in a dark, dry place
- Divide overcrowded perennials like Agapanthus, Day lilies, Dietes, Cannas and Hostas. Work in lots of compost and Vita Gro 2:3:2
- Remove summer annuals that are looking tired and replace with winter flowering annuals - like pansies, primulas, petunias, stocks, ranunculus and sweetpeas
- It is a good time to plant shrubs, trees, roses and lawns using Talborne's Vita-Gro 2:3:2, a certified organic general fertiliser
- Start feeding your flowering orchids such as cymbidiums with special orchid food like Pokon Orchid Food
- Sow flower seeds like primulas, sweet peas, stocks, delphiniums, gazania and Iceland poppies
- Start planting winter vegetables like onions, cabbage, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, peas, broad beans, Swiss chard and beetroot
- Plant fruit bearing berry bushes like strawberries, raspberries and blackberries
- Mulch your beds with lawn clippings, fallen leaves and bark chips to prevent loss of moisture
- Water Camellias and Azaleas well
- Citrus trees can be fed with 2 kg of Rose food and 75g of



Magnesium sulphate (Epson Salts)

- Give Roses a last feed of 3:1:5, spread over the root area to harden up the new growth for winter. Continue preventative spraying against black spot, rust and mildew combining this with a foliar feed. Water once a week during dry weather



March GardenValues

Efekto Insecticide Granules



A ready-to-use systemic granular insecticide for the control of aphids on roses, ornamentals and flowers

GardenValue :: R34.95

Adlus 3 Litre Pressure Sprayer



GardenValue :: R99.95

Vita 3.1.5 Fruit and Flower 5kg



Resulting from good nutrition, plant growth is accelerated, days to maturity reduced, vitality of grown material enhanced, period to fruiting shorter, more prolific fruiting and productivity enhanced over an extended period, confirmed by increased production.

Produce of a higher nutritional value, enhanced flavour, colour and smell is obtained.

GardenValue :: R64.95

Rose Iceberg 10litre Lollypop

Bushy rose that needs to be pruned. Fast grower. Continuous white flowers. Healthy growth. Full sun. Frost hardy. Needs lots of water. Excellent cut flowers.

GardenValue :: R99.95.



Offers expire end of April 2010.

GardenShop's World of Bulbs

Autumn is the perfect time to start buying and planting bulbs. Bulbs planted in autumn will flower in spring - and you must plant them in the autumn. That's the hard fact. The fun fact is that nothing is easier to grow or more colorfully rewarding than flower bulbs. Even the most unskilled gardener can create a breathtaking and beautiful spring garden with bulbs.

From March through to May GardenShop we have hundreds for you to choose from Dutch Iris, Freesia, Hyacinths, Daffodils, Ixia, Sparaxis, Anemones, Ranunculus, Waterblommetjies, Leucojums, Muscari, Chinchirincees, Tritonias and Tulbachia and many, many more. Tulips become available in April.



Here are some ideas on where to plant bright spring flowering bulbs;

- **Among Ground Cover Areas:**

For a look both casual and sophisticated, try planting bunches of taller daffodils and tulips to bloom amidst ground covers such as ivy. Another option: use the bulbs to outline an existing bed of ground cover or other plantings. To create a ribbon effect, plant bulbs in double lines, in staggered positions. This way the line isn't broken if any bulbs bloom earlier or later than the others. In either case, when the flowers fade in spring, the ground cover will hide the fading foliage.



- **A Welcoming Front Door:**

Use containers of flowers to create colourful focal points at your front door. Select pots of different styles and sizes for bulb flowers of different heights and flowering times - then mix and match. In larger containers, plant a mixture of many bulbs to achieve months of successive flowering. These can be planted in layers, with larger bulbs such as tulips, hyacinths and daffodils about 6 cm deep and smaller bulbs such as crocus, snowdrops and grape hyacinths at 2-3cm down.



Gardening with Wildlife in Mind at GardenShop Broadacres

Making your garden a better place for wildlife doesn't mean turning it into a wilderness. The evening will help you show the relationship between garden plants and creatures that depend on them, and will also offer you the chance to 'do your bit' for nature. Stopping the use of pesticides will



mean more bees, ladybirds, frogs, birds and butterflies.

A less manicured garden will be appreciated by birds and mammals. If you want to create areas to benefit wild species - a pond, a hedge or grassland - this evening will help - with wildlife gardening tips, eco-gardening products, birds and birding products and other practical advice.

Date: Thursday 22 April 2010

Time: 18h30

Charge: R150, which will include a bag full of interesting and essential gardening products.

Venue: GardenShop Broadacres

Please phone or email to book your place

Tel: 011 465 - 4216, ask for Megan

eMail: megan@gardenshop.co.za



Growing Gooseberries

Gooseberries, are one of nature's superfruits, known for their exceptional nutrient richness and antioxidant qualities.

Variety: Cape Gooseberry

Botanical Name: *Physalis peruviana*

This easy-to-grow perennial, berry plant usually grows up to 1m high and also known as the Chinese lantern plant. The golden berries, surrounded by an enlarged calyx, are popularly used in pies and jams.



Plant in a sunny position, frost free location, sheltered from strong winds. Spacing of 60cm between plants. Requires regular watering until established. Water thereafter when needed. Well-draining, compost-enriched loamy soil with added 500g of superphosphate p.m². Generous layers of mulching. Harvesting is done when the surrounding calyx is light brown and almost dry, the fruit inside should be yellow.



Look out in March for gooseberries and other berry plants at your closest GardenShop store.

Green Snippet of The Month - Biodiversity Expo at Kirstenbosch Gardens



With 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity it makes sense to head off to the Old Mutual Conference Centre at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden between March 25 and 28 and learn all about the variety of life on earth at the third Biodiversity Expo.



The Biodiversity Expo is an exciting, edutaining and engaging conservation community initiative offering more than 30 exhibits on conservation projects, sustainable development and careers in the industry. Designed to increase awareness about the current conservation action taking place and bring the general public up to speed with what is happening within these organisations, expect to see a wide variety of fascinating projects. Everything you've ever wanted to know about ecosystems, species and genes is here as this Expo unravels the mysteries of our unique planet and shows that biodiversity is life - our life.

Entry to the Expo is free (Expo venue is outside the formal garden) and,



for learners, free entry to the garden on Thursday 25 March and Friday 26 March (learners must be in uniform or have a valid student card). Visitors to the Expo on Saturday 27th March and Sunday 28th March 2010 will only be allowed free entry into the garden provided they have won a garden entry ticket at the Expo. Garden entry giveaways at the Expo will take place at 09h00 (100 tickets) and 11h00 (100 tickets) on both Saturday 27 March and Sunday 28 March 2010.

Expo times: Thursday 25 March 2010, 09h00 - 16h00
Friday 26 March 2010, 09h00 - 16h00
Saturday 27 March 2010, 09h00 - 15h00
Sunday 28 March 2010, 09h00 - 15h00

For more information: Augustine Morkel on a.morkel@sanbi.org.za

GardenGuru in Constantia

Helping you make the most of your garden. At GardenShop Constantia, 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 Constantia. Visits further a field can be arranged at a small cost.*



To book a GardenGuru consultation call GardenShop Constantia on 021 794 5015.



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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