

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS GARDENING GUIDE

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water the garden thoroughly to prevent heat-stress (deep watering twice per week) • Deadhead Flowering Plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trim Larger Hedges to maintain shape (avoid prolonged temperatures over 30°C) • Deadhead Flowering Plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to Plant Bulbs in readiness for Spring (March to early May) • Trim Box Hedges & Topiaries in readiness for cooler weather • Fertilise Garden Beds in preparation for Winter
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install Mulch in Garden Beds to maintain Soil Temperatures over Winter • Trim Larger Hedges before frosts occur • Plant Winter Vegetables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rake Fallen Leaves off lawn areas to allow the lawn to breathe, preventing fungal issues and die-back • Prune Hardy and Shrub Perennials (lavender, peonies, dahlias, etc.) and lift tubers if necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Winter Gardening Projects while the garden is asleep • Plan for any New Ornamental Plantings, etc. for Spring

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transplant Plants in Dormancy (if needed) • Buy & Plant Bareroot Plants (roses, fruit trees, etc. if required) • Once all the leaves have fallen, it's time to Winter Prune Fruit Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune Roses & Hydrangeas ready for spring growth • Plan Vegetable Plantings for the Upcoming Growing Season • Check Irrigation System in preparation for warmer weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilise Garden Beds with organics and/or compost to improve soil health • Prune Soft Herbaceous Perennials (Salvias, Penstemons, etc.) once frosts have passed • Trim Larger Hedges after winter
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant Dahlia Tubers once frosts have passed • Trim Box Hedges & Topiaries in readiness for warmer weather • Plant Summer Vegetables (late September through October) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trim Larger Hedges to maintain shape (avoid prolonged temperatures over 30°C) • Deadhead Flowering Plants • Spread Wetting Agents in Garden Beds to hold water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water the garden thoroughly to prevent heat-stress (deep watering twice per week) • Deadhead Flowering Plants • Mulch Garden Beds (if not done already) to help retain moisture (December at the latest)

GENERAL TIPS

- **Weeding should be completed year-round** - the more regularly you do it, the easier it becomes! Make it a habit to spend an hour or two per week clearing weeds from your garden beds. If desired, pre-emergent herbicides can be applied in established garden beds in March and September to prevent the germination of new weeds.
- Winter is a great time to get on top of odd jobs! Just because it is cold and the plants aren't growing doesn't mean there isn't any gardening to be done. **Winter** should probably be the **busiest time of the year** in terms of preparing for the upcoming season!
- Keep a close eye on your garden to **prevent pest and disease** from wreaking havoc. The sooner you notice an issue, the better, as less damage will occur.
- Where possible, look to **improve your soil**. Complete a pH test in different areas, dig down and check to see that it holds moisture, or that it drains well. Adjusting our soil to meet the needs of your plants will greatly improve your garden!
- **Water less often, but water deeply**. This will help your plants to develop deeper, stronger root systems, putting them in good stead to survive through drought-like situations. **Watering in the morning** will help prevent evaporation, as well as preventing fungal issues that arise from afternoon watering (wet leaves for prolonged periods).
- **Seek professional help if needed** - we specialise in garden care, so let us do the hard work for you!

