

# May Guide



Take the time to enjoy the last of the autumn foliage and colourful berries. This month requires some cutting back of flowers, which include Plectranthus, Chrysanthemum, Dahlias and Daisies. It is extremely important that materials such as hessian or **frost cover** are stocked up on before the frosty weather arises. During the winter it is important not to water too late in the afternoon. We recommend **mulch** around the base of shrubs to protect their roots from the cold.

## Green Fingers

Be sure to plant the following plants which require with less water (drought tolerant varieties)

- Dietes grandiflora and Dietes bicolor, Plumbago, Tulbaghia (garlic plant), Lavender, Rosemary and Pelargoniums.
- A few **indigenous** Watsonias would do the garden well as they are in full flower and may be used in a vase for the house.
- Plant **Hemerocallis** (Day Lilies), which do well as they continue to flower. Be sure to tidy up the plants as some leaves die off.
- Sow vegetable seeds like Radishes, Peas, Turnips, Lettuces and Broad Beans.
- Seedlings such as Dianthus, Petunias, Salvia, Verbena, Primulas and Carnations will add instant colour to flower boxes and garden beds.
- Sew **African Daisy seeds** (Namaqualand Daisy). These will add splashes of colour especially amongst deciduous shrubs.

## Nutrition

- Water roses every second week, preferably late morning. Do not feed the roses as the new growth will be negatively affected by the cold.
- Lawn should be watered once a week. Reduce mowing, mowing will encourage new growth which will be hampered by the frost. Provide the lawn with a 2:3:2 or general fertilizer, ideally before it rains.
- Feed annual seedlings and sweet peas once a month with a flowering liquid fertiliser.

## Tidy Up

- Give evergreen fruit trees a light trim.
- Cut back flowering shrubs such as Plumbago, Leonotis Leonurus (wild dagga) and Lavenders.
- Cut back conifers lightly so that shape is maintained and not changed.

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## Pests & Fungi

- Remember to treat and remain vigilant for pests especially Aphids. Inspect your plants regularly and especially Conifers.
- Roses, Geraniums and Pelargoniums especially after the heavy rainfall experienced of late should be treated for a few diseases namely rust, black spot and mildew.
  - **Check Winter Guide**

