

Dear All,

August is nearly over and spring is approaching fast. The **days are getting longer**, which means some of us may even get home before the sun sets. The smell of braais are beginning to fill the air and you may even hear the sound of children in the gardens again (as the slowly creep away from the tv screens). It also means of course that the plants are getting ready to show us their **summer beauty**. Get some inspiration from shows such as Garden Worlds Spring festival which is on until 4th September. Now is time all about growing lots of flowers. Plan, prepare and start planting up a glorious summer garden.



Bearded Iris will start to bloom from August onwards. There are an endless variety of extravagant colour in the ancient beauty. They've been dated back as far as 1500 BC and have been used not only as an irresistibly beautiful, frost hardy, water wise plant, but also for its medicinal, culinary and cosmetic properties.

From as little as R15 each

Enjoy the extraordinary show from **Magnolia's** tulip shaped flowers that blossom on bare branches and gives the illusion of a flock of exotic birds.



Some must do's:

- For those **shaded areas**, plant some Acanthus mollis, **Mackaya bella** and Azaleas.
- Correct **yellowing leaves** in acid-loving plants with some **Acid compost**, pine needles, or pine bark mulch (Gardenia, Azalea, Hydrangeas and Brunfelsia "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow")
- Give your Fuchias a dressing of nitrogen-rich fertilizer, fresh potting soil, a layer of mulch and pinch out the growing points to encourage bushy plants with lots of lowers
- Consider planning parsley between your roses as a great companion plant

Most importantly now is the **time to revive your lawn!**



- Runner-type grass such as kikuyu and LM lawn often have formed a thick layer of thatch through the winter. We need to cut this as short as possible, rake up the excess dead grass (**scarify**), **spike roll** (or fork every 20 to 30cm) – This is to allow air, food and water to reach the root system. The last step is to **feed the lawn**. You can either apply lawn dressing to encourage new growth as well as level out uneven lawn, and/or fertilize with a fertilizer that promotes strong root and leaf growth. Then **Water, Water, Water**

- Just a note that Berea shade grass also known as Durban grass or LM should not be cut too drastically.

Lawn Dressing from R350 per cubic meter delivered

Autumn and winter flowering shrubs such as Poinsettia, plumbago and Cape Honey suckle can be pruned as soon as they are finished flowering.



Kitchen Garden:

- Lavendula dentata makes a nice tough informal hedge around a vegetable patch or herb garden. They flower from later winter through spring and summer and mature to around 1m tall by 1m wide.
- You can start planting **courgettes** in the warmer areas. Plant them off as early as possible to avoid the fungal diseases that are more prevalent in late summer.
- Make **planting your potatoes fun** this season by planting them in a plastic washing basket. Line the basket with black plastic with a few holes punched in. Fill the bottom with some bone meal enriched potting soil and plant some "seed" potatoes (potatoes with at least 3 spouting eyes). Cover the bare stems lightly with compost enriches soil every few weeks until you reach the top of the basket. Keep the soil moist. After about 9 weeks the plants should flower, and after about another 6 weeks, the first new potatoes can be harvested.



In late August you can start planting all the beautiful **summer flowering bulbs**, cannas, spider lilies, watsonias, **crocsmia** and storm lilies.



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All prices exclude delivery, planting, fertilizers etc. Please enquire individually
Please feel free to contact us if you require any assistance or quotations for the suggestions mentioned.

Happy Gardening 😊

Kind Regards,

The Acton Gardens Team

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