

## Spring Inspiration For Your Garden

Nothing is so delicate or breathtaking as the first plum blossoms in our winter weary orchard. They herald the spring and, in only a few days, cover the whole tree. The main street of Inverleigh is awash with pink prunus blossoms and the mass plantings of ornamental pears in front of the Inverleigh shop and at the Shelford end of the Inverleigh-Shelford road are really stunning. Winchelsea gardens are springing alive with colour.

Now is the time to go out and take note of the varieties, sizes, flowering time and colours of deciduous trees and shrubs which you would like to include in your own garden. Knock on a door and ask the owner, look at images on the internet, ask at a nursery – do whatever it takes to identify the plants you love. You will probably have to wait until next June to buy bare rooted deciduous plants. Or you could always pay a little more for a potted specimen so you can get it planted and it can start growing.

Some evergreen stunners in local gardens are diosmas, bridal veil broom, wattles, native hibiscus and French lavenders. We are on the tail end of our jonquils and daffodils and wish we had planted more. Both sides of the path leading to the doors of St Paul's Church of England in Inverleigh had the brightest display of sunshine coloured daffodils this year. Eye catching and cheerful, they flower beneath roses which are dormant now but will bloom later in spring and take over the display.

Certainly mass plantings of bulbs do look spectacular. Once again, take note of what you like when you see it and also of when to take action. Daffodil and jonquil bulbs are planted in autumn in a position where they will get plenty of sun in winter and spring. They are waterwise plants since they do not need water while they are dormant in summer. In fact, the bulbs may rot if the soil becomes waterlogged so choose a well-drained site. Bulbs are suitable for pots and can be brought to the fore when they bloom and retired once their moment of glory is over. With so many different and interesting varieties of bulbs, you might find that you are inspired to start a collection.

Look out of your windows, look out from your verandahs, look along your pathways, take a walk around the garden. How could you make your garden, or views of your garden, more appealing at this time of the year? What would entice you out to see if spring has sprung? What would fill you with joy after the winter? Or, on a more mundane note, what needs a clean-up or some revitalising action?

Spring is a great time for putting in new plants because with rain, rising temperatures and extended daylight, they get off to a flying start. It is important to remember, however, that plants will need some watering until they are established. Consider the practicality of summer watering for you – how many new plants can you easily maintain once it gets hot? This could be the very moment to be inspired to put in a watering system.

Even better – now is the time to work on conserving moisture, improving soil structure and increasing nutrients in the soil. The work you do now will make such a difference come January. Add compost, manures and other organic material. Layer them on top or dig them in. Top up mulch but time that job carefully. If you do it too early, the soil takes longer to warm up and some lighter rain cannot penetrate to the soil below. If you leave it too late, the soil dries out and weeds go to seed.

As always, we gardeners are working in the present with an eye to the future, bearing in mind the practicalities of our particular interests, taste and situations.

### Workshops

Our winter series of workshops were a great success with participants noting how much fun it is to learn in a friendly atmosphere where the workshops include some practical aspects as well as theory. Please book in early to ensure a place. Check our website or ring for more details.

**Spring Workshops** - all held at the nursery, morning tea and notes, dress for the weather.

Please visit our website or phone for more details.

**Composting** – Sun Sept 13<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 12 am – theory & hands on - \$20

**Garden Design** - Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Sept & Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Oct, 10 am - 12.30 am - \$50 for 5 hrs (2 sessions of 2.5 hours),  
1<sup>st</sup> session, design theory and garden walk, planner, 2<sup>nd</sup> session group feedback on your own plans and ideas.

**Propagation** – Sat 26<sup>th</sup> September, 10 am – 11.30 am, \$20 adults, \$15 kids learn how to make more plants by taking cuttings, layering and dividing, - brief theory, hands on, start some plants for your garden, BYO secateurs.

**Herb Garden** – Sun 27<sup>th</sup> September, 10 – 12 am, \$30 design ideas, propagation, some uses for herbs.

Happy gardening

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