

Gardens

COMPILED BY TRACEY COLE

Here's what to plant to add a burst of summer colour to your garden, and some light summer vegetables to your lunch.

Late spring tips for your garden



PRUNE: Azaleas can be pruned to keep them tidy; also, pack some slightly acidic mulch around them.

Buchu, pincushions, ericas and confetti bushes are just a few of the fynbos plants that can be tidied up after flowering. Trailing geraniums can be

pruned after flowering. Then fertilise for the next batch of beauty.

PLANT: Spring is the time for bountiful colour... Plant gauras, agapanthus and cupheas for year-after-year colour.

In shady gardens, shade-loving impatiens, begonias and hydrangeas can add a burst of colour. Plant annuals like dianthus and salvias in sunny patches.

EDIBLES: Plant berries now. Blueberries and raspberries are easy to grow. I get best results planting them in large containers and fertilising well. Start planting seedlings of chillies, peppers, cucumber, watermelon, artichoke, spinach, basil, coriander and tomato. Remember to feed them organically. In hot gardens, apply wood-chip mulch around vegetables to help protect the roots from heat. To control vegetable pests, only spray organically, and do it when you see the start of an infestation. If the infestation is entrenched, remove the plant and place it in a bin – not in your compost.

MULCH: This is vital – but avoid shells, peach pips or stones.

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