



Seasons of change

With a little TLC, our gardens can be enjoyed even during the winter months – by Daniela Sperotto

As the leaves begin to change and our winter woollies come out of storage ready for the frosty months, we all seem to head indoors and turn our backs on the outdoor world. Yet the change of season marks an essential time for home owners to tend the garden in order to sustain its health, and even keep it blooming during the grey months ahead.

“Winter is the best time of year to landscape your garden,” explains Tim Horne of Abacus Gardens. Plants tend to hibernate or grow really slowly in winter, so heavy gardening is not necessary – but instead your garden will need a lot of cleaning, care, pruning and bulb planting.

Some of the most important things to look at will be how and when you water your garden. Your plants will still need sufficient moisture, yet insuring they don’t get “wet feet” will help them grow without rotting or frosting.

“Irrigation controllers should be reset to their alternative program – specific to autumn and winter conditions. Watering times will differ based on geographic location. Watering should be done during the heat of the day, to enable enough time for the plants to absorb the water and for any excess water to evaporate,” advises Cheral Kennedy of Living Matter.

Once you have your watering under control, you can then see to the nitty-gritty of cleaning out your garden, and making sure your plants are ready and happy for the coming colder months.





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“Start mulching your garden to keep moisture in the soil, and give it a last good fertilising by May. Cut back summer flowering perennials and shrubs, but don’t cut back spring flowering perennials and annuals as they are now forming buds and will add to your garden’s colour,” says Toni Dymond from The Garden Angel. “You can also start planting sweet pea seeds, and winter or spring flowering annuals,” she adds.

If patience is not on your side, then in order to see your garden blooming with colour, Simon Taylor of Apalis Gardens and Irrigation recommends winter flowering annuals as they are a fantastic option to give colour to your garden all year round. “Plant *primulas* in the shade

and pansies in the sun. Aloes can also be planted for some late winter colour, as well as Cape honeysuckles which will also flower later in winter,” he adds.

Unless you opt for a completely hassle-free option like Belgotex’s Duraturf which offers all round comfort and a “green grass” feel, tending to your garden during winter will allow you to reap the benefits in the long term, and will allow you to enjoy this space throughout all seasons. 🏡

*With thanks to Abacus Gardens, Apalis Gardens and Irrigation, Belgotex, Living Matter, Renaldo and YZ Gardens and The Garden Angel
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