



livingearth
SUPPLIES

Winter in the Mudgee Garden.

Winter has arrived in Mudgee and there is still plenty of work to be done in the garden.

This time of year is generally the best to get out there and do your major landscaping work. Do the heavy and hard jobs in the cool of winter and sit down and enjoy the effort in summer. Look for structural holes in your planting scheme. Do you need to add some evergreen plants to hold the garden together while deciduous and perennial plants are dormant? Flax, box, nandina, escallonia, natives are some easy suggestions to fill a sad gap.

Compost top dress your garden now. Leave un-mulched while you can bear the weeds. Dark compost will warm soil and keeps all that underground action happening.

Review your watering. These heavy frosts will draw up a lot of moisture each day. Test the soil down a few inches and around the roots. That is where it needs to be right. Water your garden no later than midday on a cold day. You don't want any extra moisture left on leaves that are going to get frosted overnight.



Winter is also a great time to clean up your garden. If you are going to cut down frosted perennial plants like cannas, I like to protect the rhizomes from frost with a layer of the prunings or a light layer of mulch. Too heavy and they will rot in the cold ground. Only lightly prune your tender plants like salvias. We like to leave them and enjoy their winter structure until the soil starts to warm. I like to neaten up their canopy and enjoys the frosted bare branches.



You can prune all your Miscanthus now, but why not enjoy their lovely wheat coloured winter structure? The birds as well as humans are enjoying the ones at the nursery. Maybe they are working on their next nestings?



livingearth

SUPPLIES

Tidy up spent iris, daylily, flax leaves. Clean up grass and winter weeds. Make sure that you know what you are pruning. Some shrubs benefit from a summer, post flowering prune. The new growth will hold your flowers for the NEXT season. If you prune now, you cut off this seasons flowers. Get to know your garden and educate yourself as to how to care for them...or call us!



Don't prune your roses yet, wait until the weather starts to warm, generally late August is when I attack mine at home. When you prune, you trigger a growth response, so your shrub will think it's time to bud. They will start to produce, then the plant will get frosted and your new growth will be destroyed. Hang on for a few more weeks.

In the veggie patch you will be reaping the benefits of your late summer plantings of broccoli, cabbages, Asian veg, lettuces, spinach, root veggies, winter herbs, and alliums. You should also be drowning in citrus fruit. Start planning your spring veggie plantings. You can kick start plants like tomatoes, cucumbers etc inside, to plant out after the last frost. I tend to start sowing in early August and just place my seedlings in large plastic storage tubs. These create a greenhouse environment, I open and close the lids to control moisture and temperature and they are so transportable. Give it a try this year.



If you plan to add fruit and nut trees, right now is the time to plant bare rooted trees and shrubs. There are so many varieties to choose from, peaches and plums to apples and pears, berries, rhubarb, almonds and much more. We have plants in stock now at the nursery for another month or so, and then they will be potted up as they awaken from dormancy.



livingearth
SUPPLIES

As always, don't hesitate to contact us for product, plant or landscaping info and enjoy the winter garden.

Kristie

