



NORMARKNEWS



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Winter News

Things to do in your home garden during winter months

We are having some strange weather and the nature is getting confused. Some plants believe it's spring already. You can see Wattle trees in full bloom and daffodils are flowering in some gardens.

Prepare for rose pruning. Many nurseries are providing demonstrations on pruning.

Are you feeling cold or bored with TV?

Go out and rake the leaves. The colors of autumn leaves are quite amazing. If the leaves are looking healthy – compost them, if they look diseased, dispose of them.

Winter is a good time for planning. Most of us are very consciences about the amount of water we use in the garden and feel guilty. With some thought and advice, you can improve your garden to be more water-wise. Many plants are tougher than we think and will get used to gradual decrease in water. There are also many beautiful draught resistant plants eg. Banksia and kangaroo paw. Check in your local nursery for suitable plants for your area. You could dig up the thirsty plants and replace them with new draught tolerant plants. The price of the new plants will be saved on the ever increasing water costs and you'll feel better for doing a right things for our environment.

Increase water retention of your soil by mulch or compost. Granular and liquid soil-wetters increase soil capacity to absorb and retain water.

Good time to clean the fish pond, lift and divide waterlillies

Wood ash can be used in the garden or compost to add its nutrients but briquette ash contain chemicals that may be harmful to your garden.

Do you like the taste of home grown fruit but have a small garden?

There are new trees available eg. Balerina columnar apple trees. They come in several varieties. They grow only up to about 3m high and 30 cm wide. They only need little trimming of the side branches.

The others on offer are dwarf nectarines and peaches. The tree grows to about 1.5m and produces full size fruit. They also look beautiful in spring time when flowering.

Another option is to plant a multi crafted tree where several varieties of fruit is growing on one tree. There is a web site if you're interested in these trees (www.fruitsaladtrees.com)

Need an inspiration or advice?

Visit Essendon Garden Centre; winner of the 2004 Australian Garden Industry award for the Best Garden Centre in Victoria. They are family run business; with Justin Taverniti, his father Bruno and brother Ashley all excited about winning the Award.

The centre has a lovely and relaxing atmosphere with friendly and knowledgeable staff always ready to provide practical advice.

Ask Justin about Bulk Buys pricing of quality advanced plants. Visit the Florist & Homeware section.

Delivery for larger purchases can be arranged. Stop in The Cafe for yummy food and good coffee. Great place to meet your friends or have a quiet time on your own. The Essendon Garden Centre, is opened 7 days a week. They are at 1060 Mt Alexandra Rd, Essendon - tel 9379 0555

Normark pay particular attention to keeping your site clean during the project and cleaning up after the job has been finished (nothing is worse than having equipment, rubbish and materials lying everywhere during and after a job!).



As well as creating a beautiful garden, Normark also keeps and maintains your living asset to the standard it deserves the best! That's the reason Normark won the **LANDSCAPE OF THE YEAR AWARD** and the **BEST MAINTAINED GARDEN OF THE YEAR**.

Thought for today:

How to have a successful Family Business?
HARMONY- Family in harmony will prosper in everything



Normark staff changes:

Welcome to:

Peter Anderson

Peter is our new maintenance manager. Peter has the Certificate of Horticulture, used he's skills in various landscape industries, has extensive plant knowledge and has keen interest in Australian native plants. Peter has vast knowledge of fertilisers and poisons.

Daniel – new trainee. He's a second year certificate III in Horticulture Parks & Gardens trainee.

Good bye to:

Dale – our Maintenance manager Dale returned to his former type of employment in administration. We wish him well

Maintenance – What we're doing for you now

- ✿ Fertilise lawns to boost them up after the dry weather we had through the summer and autumn. The recent rains will help the fertilizer to reach the roots.
- ✿ Fertilise trees and shrubs to prepare them for spring growth
- ✿ Fertilise spring flowering bulbs
- ✿ Prune roses – between now & July
- ✿ Trimming trees – shape them and thin the branches to allow sun reach the lawn. The spring flowering bushes will be pruned later, after the flowering has finished.
- ✿ Checking and adjusting the irrigation, now that the stage two of the restriction was lifted.
 - ✿ Permanent water saving rules for Melbourne still applies.
 - ✿ Use manual watering systems only between 8pm and 10am
 - ✿ Use automatic watering systems only between 10pm and 10am
 - ✿ Fit your hose with a trigger nozzle before washing your car or watering your gardens and lawns
 - ✿ No hosing of paved areas except in specified circumstances
 - ✿ Apply to fill a new pool

NOTE:

It came to our attention recently there is a common problem with Flaxes. A fungus is attacking the roots. If left unattended, the plants will gradually die. As a precaution, we'll spray all the Flaxes in our client's landscapes. Normark will provide this service as a variation and will try to keep the cost to a minimum. If you don't wish the spraying at your location, please advise us.

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