

Autumn is here!

Autumn is a great time to spend time in the garden. The weather has cooled down to make a day in the garden an enjoyable experience. It is a great time to tidy up all those plants that need pruning or have finished flowering. It is also a great time to feed your plants that haven't been fed since early spring. Gardens may also need a top up of mulch if you used mulch that has broken down over spring and summer. If planting new plants remember that you can water them for the first 28 days if you keep your receipt of purchase. This comes in handy when plants need to get roots into the soil before winter and colder weather. See our suggested list for Autumn flowering plants.

Happy gardening,
Dave, Narelle, Kath & Paul

Planting in Autumn

When it comes to planting, there's no better time than autumn. The air is cooler, but the soil is still warm enough to get root growth on a range of native shrubs. Autumn is a great time to divide your native plants, see below for more information.

Dividing Native Plant Species

Plants which produce suckers, stolons, bulbs, tubers or rhizomes can be propagated by division.

Examples of these plants are as follows:

Suckers – several *Dampiera* spp., *Scaevola striata*

Stolons – *Viola hederacea*, several *Goodenia* spp.

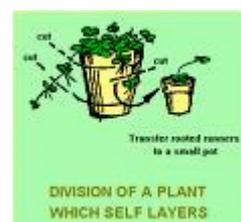
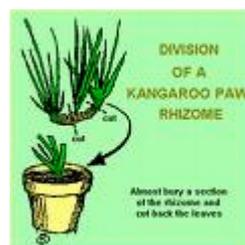
Bulbs - *Crinum*

Tubers – some *Thysanotus*

Rhizomes – *Anigozanthos* spp., most *Dianella* spp., *Lomandra* spp., *Alpinia* spp.,

Dividing *Anigozanthos* spp.

Anigozanthos flavidus rhizome divisions can be taken in March – May, simply by cutting the rhizome with a sharp knife or spade, ensuring each section has a healthy bud on it. These can then be planted as separate plants and will recover very quickly. It is sometimes useful to cut the foliage down to 10cm in height as this prevents moisture evaporation and lets the plant put all its energy into establishing its root system.



What's flowering in autumn?

If you are looking to plant a tree or shrub that flowers in autumn, then choose from the following, all of which are available in our nursery.

Trees

Banksia integrifolia

- Coast Banksia

Stenocarpus sinuatus

- Firewheel Tree



Shrubs

Banksia ericifolia

Banksia Giant Candles

Banksia Marginata

Banksia spinulosa

Correa alba



Correa reflexa spp.

Crocea saligna

Hakea bakeriana

Hakea laurina



Lambertia formosa

Persoonia pinifolia

Question & Answer

Are there any deciduous native trees?

The two best known deciduous Australian species are the:



Red Cedar (*Toona ciliata*)

Large deciduous tree to 40m. Bears small white or pink flowers in late spring. Very fast growing.



White Cedar (*Melia azedarach*).

Spreading tree of variable height from 10-40m. Bears purple and white flowers in spring. Very easily grown in most soils and aspects.

Both of these occur naturally in subtropical rainforests of Queensland and New South Wales.

Some Australian trees can be partly deciduous in that they may lose foliage on a half or more of the tree just prior to flowering while retaining it on the other half. The Illawarra flame tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) is the best known example of this and it can sometimes be observed on the silky oak (*Grevillea robusta*).

Growing Native Plants in Clay Soil

When growing native plants in clay soil there can be problems with compaction, waterlogging and plant growth due to the effort plants have to make to get their roots through the soil. With this in mind there are several things you can do to improve garden beds for planting such as, laying drainage pipes, raising garden beds by a minimum of 25cm, cultivating soil and adding garden compost or gypsum.

Plant choice is always important with clay soil such as **Melaleuca, Callistemon, Syzygium, Indigofera** and some **Acacia** species. Plants that aren't recommended for clay soil include, Grevilleas, Banksias and most members of the Proteaceae Family.