



The Micro Gardener

'Making it Easy to Grow Good Health'

November Seasonal Gardening Tips – Subtropical Queensland

November continues from last month as our fifth season in SE QLD. I call it 'Sprummer' as we transition from spring into summer. During November we typically expect highly changeable weather. [Temperatures](#) can warm up quickly and weather is often very unpredictable. Some days can feel like spring but it can also be dry, extremely hot, humid, very windy or even chilly! We can get storms with heavy rain and hail or all of these conditions within a week! This year, it's hotter and drier than average so rain is very welcome. Based on my observations and keeping notes on patterns over 25 years, this is a time to **be prepared**. It can be quite confusing and challenging for gardeners and plants alike! Follow my [Subtropical Planting Guide](#) for what to plant when and garden tasks throughout the year.



Time to pay attention to watering if you haven't had adequate rain. Watch the [forecast for upcoming rain](#). Soaker hoses, drip irrigation and hand watering early morning can be useful ways to irrigate and keep the moisture up to plants during a high growth period. [Save water](#) where you can. As warmth and humidity increase, you'll notice more insect and disease activity. If you haven't already [mulched](#) your garden, this is vital to attend to.

You may need a variety of crop protection strategies from now until around the end of March. Shade cloth structures (e.g. made with bamboo stakes and zip ties), netting and fruit bags can help protect plants. Consider how you are going to shade vulnerable plants on hot days or design your garden so you take advantage of living shade or other structures. Have some strategies for protecting crops from torrential rain and hail, as well as strong drying and damaging winds.



Shade cloth and netting are very adaptable and can be made into portable or permanent structures to protect your crops.

It's typical to see an increase in insects including aphids, scale, newly hatched grasshoppers (sorry to be the bearer of bad news!), katydids, caterpillars, bronze orange bugs and citrus leaf miners. Be observant and check for early signs of damage so you can act as needed. Learn to [control garden pest insects naturally](#).

Unfortunately, just as many of our fruiting crops are ripening and we're anticipating the fruits of our labour, the QLD fruit fly will be out in force. They sting fruit and maggots hatch inside, causing it to rot. There are a number of [organic control strategies](#) you can use. Exclusion netting, baits and bagging fruits may be options to control their numbers.

Aim to have [flowers](#) in your garden year-round. There are so many annuals and perennials that you can sow now. Flowers provide nectar and pollen for predatory insects like ladybirds, [hoverflies](#) and parasitic wasps as well as all the pollinators. These beneficial insects will help keep the pest-to-predator balance in check. Most fruiting crops rely on both honeybees and native bees for pollination and a bigger harvest. It's essential to [attract pollinators to your garden](#) by allowing herbs/veggies to flower or sowing flowers. Otherwise, be prepared to hand pollinate or have a poor harvest.

Fruit trees and fruiting crops are hungry feeders. If you're growing any of these like [cucumbers, zucchini or pumpkins](#), maintain consistent moisture and keep up growth with minerals and balanced nutrients. Apply [compost](#), worm castings, slow-release pellets and liquid seaweed to feed your crops during this prime growing period. Keep well [mulched](#).

What to Plant Now

Sow your leafy greens like celery, chard and lettuce under shade covers and keep up the moisture. Or sow as seeds to **harvest as young [microgreens](#)**. Ready in 7-21 days. [Save seeds](#) from all your herbs and vegetables to save money.

Only sow 'Slow Bolt' coriander if you grow as microgreens or in partial shade and consistently moist soil. Otherwise, sow the perennial Mexican Sawtooth variety to take you through summer. Perennial summer spinach varieties like Suranim, Brazilian, Ceylon, Sambung, Okinawa, Sambung/Longevity and Warrigal Greens/NZ spinach are thriving now. These all provide spinach leaves during our hot humid weather.

Sow [turmeric](#) and ginger with the [moon cycle](#) along with other [root crops](#) like beetroot, carrots, [sweet potato](#), yakon and [radish](#). Asian greens, [basil](#), snake [beans](#), capsicum, celery, chilli, [chives](#), choko, cucumber or cucamelons, eggplant, [kale](#), leeks, melons, [mustard](#), okra, oregano, [parsley](#), pumpkin, [rosemary](#), [sage](#), sorrel, [spring onions](#), [thyme](#), [tomatoes](#) and warrigal greens. Include lots of [flowers](#) for beneficial insects. Try dianthus, [cosmos](#), marigolds, salvias and [sunflowers](#).

Swap to heat-tolerant 'loose leaf' lettuce varieties like 'Salad Bowl Red' or 'Green'; 'Little Gem' and 'Parris Island' Cos; 'Royal Oakleaf', 'All Seasons' and 'Summer Harvest' that are slow to bolt. Lettuce grows well in partial shade or just a couple of hours of early morning sun. It needs constant moisture for fast growth. Self-watering container gardens are ideal for all leafy greens and many [herbs](#). Find or create a suitable [microclimate](#) and succession plant for lots of luscious leaves.

Take cuttings during the [new moon cycle](#) and [propagate plants](#) for quick root development. Who doesn't love free plants?!

Garden Tasks

- Sow warm-season seedlings for Christmas and summer salads. Sow seeds as [microgreens](#) for quick picks.
- Check fruit fly traps. Re-bait as necessary. Install bee and bird baths for hot weather.
- Fertilise fruit trees and fruiting crops during the growing season. Mulch well.
- Make compost and apply [mulch](#) to all pots and plants.
- De-sucker bananas, feed and water. If harvesting, wear old clothes as the sap stains!

Resources and Articles

- [The Benefits of Moon Gardening – How to work with moon cycles](#)
- [Subtropical Planting Guide – What to Plant and When](#)
- [3 Steps to Prepare Your Garden for Planting](#)
- [6 Tips for Abundant Edible Container Gardens](#)
- [The Benefits of Container Gardening](#)
- [Easy Food Gardening Guide for Beginners](#)
- [9 Strategies to Help Combat Common Edible Garden Problems](#)



Need Help?

Do you want to feel more confident rather than frustrated and unprepared? Or just need a helping hand with one-on-one personalised expert advice and support for your garden? If so, consider my [live chat coaching call](#) or [onsite garden consultation service](#). I'd love to help you maximise space, provide design ideas and tailor advice for what you need to help fast track you to success. Read [what a few of my onsite clients say](#) and feedback from my [live chat clients](#).

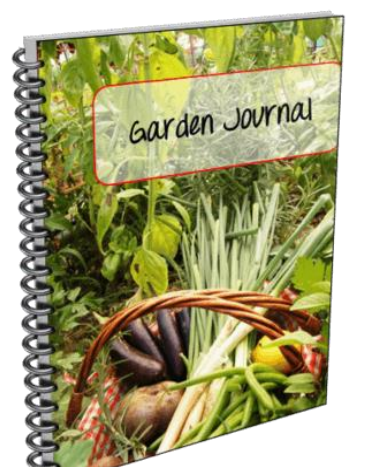
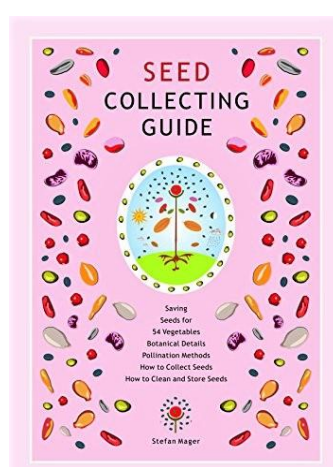
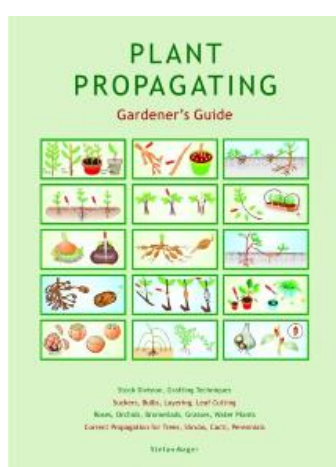
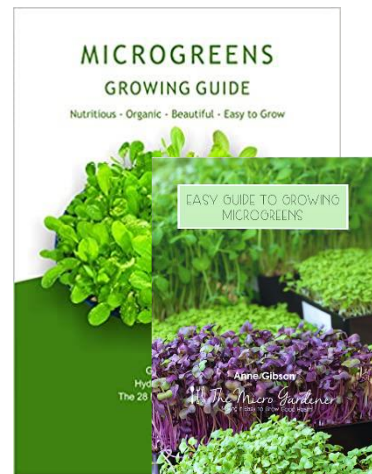
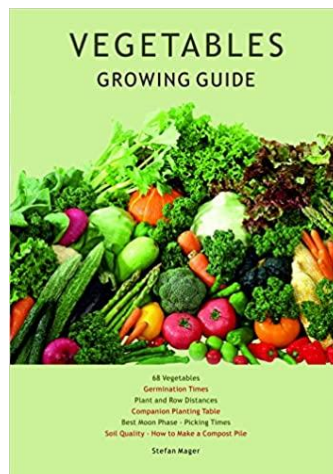
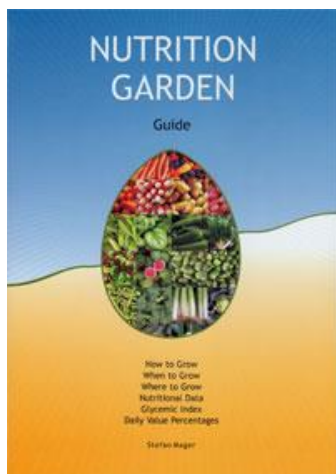
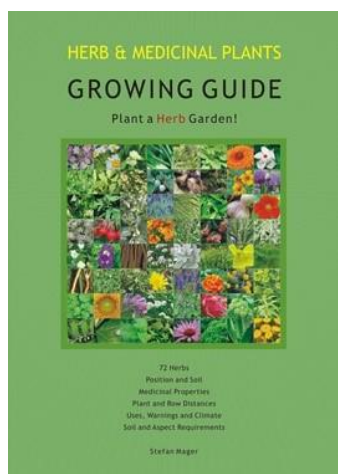
Have fun and get planting!

Helpful Gardening Guides

Refer to my laminated double-sided [Subtropical Planting Guide](#) for what to plant now, more pests to watch out for and other key tasks. The perpetual [Moon Calendar Gardening Guide](#) also provides you with exact dates to fine-tune your planting, fertilising, propagation, grafting and sowing activities for optimum abundance. [Learn more about Moon Gardening](#) and [save money when buying both guides with this Special Offer](#).

[Check out more resources and guides](#) to grow a productive healthy garden.

I also have a variety of laminated fold-out 8 page reference guides packed with practical information to help you [collect and save seeds](#), [propagate free plants](#), [grow and eat nutrient-rich superfoods](#), [grow vegetables](#), [microgreens](#) and [herb and medicinal plants](#). Visit the [online store](#) for all products and services.



I hope you've enjoyed these tips and dig into the gardening guides and resources. May the year ahead be filled with an abundance of good health and harvests!

Kind regards,



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