



Organic

Spring & Summer Garden Guide



Talborne **URBAN** Organics
Designed for Life

Spring & Summer Garden Guide Index



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*Organic Solutions for
all your Growing Needs*

Introduction to the Spring & Summer Garden Guide

Hello Sunshine!

Spring has sprung and Summer's on its way, bringing with it the perfect time to get your hands dirty and cultivate a thriving garden. Whether you're a seasoned green thumb or a curious beginner, this guide is here to be your companion on the journey to a flourishing indoor and outdoor space.

Inside, you'll find all the essential tips and tricks to make the most of the warm weather. We'll cover everything from preparing your garden beds for the season to planting luscious vegetables, vibrant flowers, and everything in between.

So, grab your gardening goodies, get ready to soak up the sunshine, and let's create a garden that's not only beautiful but bountiful!



Tip: Sustained, Consistent release over a 4-month period = Value for money

Our products are released in a sustained and consistent manner over a 4-month period. So, when looking at prices on the shelf be sure to do the maths and check how many times other fertilizers need to be used in the same 4-month period and at what application rates.

Eg. If fertilizer 'A' is applied once every 4-6 weeks and our 'Vita range' is applied once every 16 weeks, then you should take the price of fertilizer 'A' and multiply it by 3 or 4 to get a fair comparison.

You will note that Vita works out at a lower cost and better value for money when compared correctly.

What is Organic Gardening?

The essence of organic gardening relies on the building up of a healthy compost rich and crumbly soil with a thriving ecosystem. Inputs which damage the environment, pollute, kill soil life, or cause toxicity in food, soil and water sources are strictly forbidden.

Organic Gardening Practices

- **Mulch:** Retains moisture, regulates temperature, protects topsoil, and suppresses weeds.
- **Compost:** Enriches soil, stores water, and feeds soil life.
- **Natural Fertilizers:** Nourish soil, plants and people with essential nutrients.
- **Natural Pest Control:** Disrupts pest life cycles, repels them, or creates discomfort, avoiding harmful chemicals.
- **Water Wisely:** Use good quality water according to plant needs, season, and climate.

Join us in Growing Health: Healthy Soil = Healthy Plants = Healthy People

Why are Talborne Products Unique?

Superfood for Your Garden

Unique & Incomparable

- Scientifically formulated, complete fertilizers with essential nutrients.
- Derived from natural sources, no chemicals, or fillers.
- Mimics nature, feeding soil life for sustained plant health.

Superfood for Soil, Plants & You

- 23+ nutrients, amino acids & carbon for optimal plant growth.
- Healthier soil leads to healthier plants and people.
- No leaching or burning, protects the environment.

Sustained Release, Great Value

- Consistent nutrient release over 4 months.
- Fewer applications compared to other fertilizers.
- Cost-effective and long-lasting.

Multi-Purpose Power

- One product for various uses: flowers, vegetables, trees & more.
- Apply easily: sprinkle, broadcast, mix, or add to compost.

Climate-Smart & Certified Organic

- Adds carbon to the soil, promoting healthy microbial life.
- Conserves water and reduces environmental impact.
- Certified organic for safe, toxin-free gardening and produce.

Recyclable Packaging

- We're committed to a sustainable future.
- Recyclable bags and bottles for eco-friendly gardening.

Learn more: www.talborne.co.za

Talborne Organics: Nourish your garden, organically.

Soil Preparation and Improvement for Spring & Summer



Reference: Washington Post

Tip: Building soil health and fertility is vital to organic gardening success

Did you Know:

It takes 2 000 years to create 10cm of topsoil.

If you increase your Soil's organic matter by 1%, you increase the Soil's water holding capacity by 16L per m².

Laying the Groundwork - Spring and Summer Soil Prep

Spring is the prime time to prep your soil for a thriving, organic summer garden. Healthy soil teeming with microscopic organisms like fungi and bacteria work together with insects to sustain all life. This vital soil ecosystem is the foundation for strong, vibrant plants, so dedicating some time now will pay off throughout the growing season. Here's what you need to know

How to build healthy, Organic Soil

It is important to choose the right amendments to improve soil structure, drainage, aeration, and fertility. Most plants, including grass, grow best at a neutral pH.

Recipe for a DIY Soil Test

Testing for Soil Acidity or Alkalinity: The Home Pantry Soil pH Test

- Place 2 tablespoons of soil in a bowl and add ½ cup vinegar. If the mixture fizzes, it is an indication of an alkaline soil.
- Place 2 tablespoons of soil in a bowl and moisten it with distilled water. Add ½ cup baking soda. If the mixture fizzes, it is an indication of an acidic soil.
- If your soil test reveals a pH that is out of range, adding lime to raise it or sulphur to lower it can help achieve the ideal balance.

Amending Champions

- Organic matter is your best friend! Compost, Talborne Organic Earthworm Castings and leaf mould are all excellent amendments that add Carbon, promote soil microbial life, improve soil structure, increase water retention, and loosen compacted soil. Add 1L – 3L of good quality, weed free Compost per square meter.
- Sandy and Clay soils both benefit from generous amounts of organic matter.
- To correct acidic Soil pH levels: Apply Lime at 200g per m² (adjust for plant type)
- To correct high Alkaline pH levels: Apply Sulphur or Acid Compost as directed (adjust for plant type)



Tip

Apply Magnesium Sulphate (Epsom Salts) to Sandy Soils but be careful to apply Epsom Salts to Clay Soils as clay soils already have enough Magnesium due to tight soil pores and structure.

Targeting Trouble Spots

- **Drainage Deficits:** If your soil holds onto water for too long, your drainage needs improvement. Consider raised garden beds as an option in these problem areas, or you can add coarse river sand or shredded mixed material mulch to improve water flow.
- **Clay Crusaders:** Clay soil can be dense and suffocating for plants. Amending with organic matter and using a garden fork to break up compaction will significantly improve aeration and drainage. Applying Gypsum will also assist in breaking up clay and conditioning the soil.



*Nourish Your Soil,
Nourish Your Life*

Spring & Summer Planting and Feeding

Planting: Use Talborne Organics Vita Grow 2:3:2 (16) or Vita Veg 6:3:4 (16) for planting as they contain Nitrogen, higher Phosphate and Potassium levels for root development, stress tolerance and overall plant health.

Feeding: Apply Vita Green 5:1:5 (16), Vita Fruit and Flower 3:1:5 (18) or Vita Veg 6:3:4 (16) fertilizers to feed soil life, provide nutrition and stress relief to plants for healthy gardens.

Mulch: Remember to mulch your garden, you always want to keep your soil covered by a mulch of some sort (shredded mixed material, straw, leaves and living mulch options like ground covers) for temperature regulation, weed control and moisture retention.



Using Talborne Vita Granular Fertilizers:

- Apply 100g (1 handful) per m² or 1ml fertilizer per L size container (4L container = 4ml Vita Fertilizer (1 x teaspoon))
- Safe for plants, doesn't leach or volatilize, pH balanced and provides a sustained release of nutrients for a 4-month period after application.
- Carbon, Climate and Water Smart

A Continuous Process

Organic soil nutrition is an ongoing journey. By investing in building organic matter, providing essential nutrients and minerals, and adapting your approach to your soil and climate, you can create a thriving garden year-round



Small Space Gardening Tip

Group similar needs
Group plants with similar light and water requirements together for easier care and efficient use of space.

Spring & Summer Colour Seedlings



Snapdragon

Tip: Snapdragons are excellent as cut flowers and will bloom all summer long if deadheaded regularly.



Stocks

Prefer full sun but can tolerate partial shade as long as they get at least 2-3 hours of sunlight a day. They thrive in well-draining, moist soil. Avoid extreme heat and humidity.



Diascia (Twinspur)

They prefer full sun and well-drained soil. Water regularly to maintain moisture but avoid soggy conditions. Pinch back the stem tips of young plants to encourage bushier growth and more blooms.

Did you Know: Indigenous to South Africa, Diascia's have pouch-like flowers that attract insects and oil-collecting bees.



Zinnia

Zinnias are sun worshippers and thrive in full sun. Well-drained soil is key. Zinnias are fairly drought-tolerant, but they appreciate consistent moisture.



Foxgloves

Tall Spires of Elegant bell-shaped flowers. Ideally suited in a dappled shade position at the back of the border.

Did you Know: Foxgloves are poisonous although recorded poisonings from this plant are very rare.



Portulaca

Also known as moss rose or sun plant, is a low-growing succulent with vibrant blooms that thrive in the warm South African climate. Portulaca is a sun worshiper and the flowers only open in bright sunshine, closing at night and on cloudy days.



Lobelia: Ideal for hanging baskets, containers and edging of borders. They cascade and provide masses of colour in shades of white, blues, purples and pinks. Lobelia's prefer sun to semi-shade.

Begonia: Begonias generally prefer bright, indirect sunlight or dappled shade and moist soil.

Coleus: Colourful and vibrant foliage plants to liven up shady or partially shady parts of the garden. Ideal for containers, garden beds and borders.

Impatiens: Impatiens are a great choice for shade gardens that thrive in the warm, humid climate of South Africa. Impatiens generally prefer partial shade, especially during the hotter afternoon hours.

Tips for Growing Spring & Summer Seedlings

To encourage continuous flowering, deadhead spent blooms by removing the flower heads before seeds form.



Nurturing Nature's Beauty: How to get Vibrant Spring and Summer Blooms

- Condition your soil with compost, organic earthworm castings (250ml per m²/1cm layer on top of soil in pot plants) and apply Talborne Organics Eco-Green Seedling Food 6:2:5 (13) (200g per m² or 2ml per litre size container before planting). This will help to improve drainage and soil structure, boost soil fertility and result in healthy seedlings that will add swathes of colour to your life.
- Water your seedlings regularly, especially during hot, dry periods (adjust watering based on your regions climatic conditions)



Spring & Summer Bulbs

Dahlia Tubers: Dahlias are sun-lovers and thrive in warm sunny spots that are protected from strong winds. They prefer well-draining, fertile soil. The best time to plant dahlia tubers in South Africa is from mid-October to the end of November. They require regular watering, especially during hot and dry periods.

TIP: To encourage bushier growth and more blooms, pinch out the growing tip of the main stem once the plant reaches about 30cm tall.

Arum Lily Bulbs: Indigenous to South Africa, this Lily likes a lot of light and thrives in full sun if the summer is on the cooler side. In areas with scorching summer sun, partial shade is preferable. Arum lilies love organically rich, well-drained soil that retains moisture.

Did you Know: Arum lily flowers and foliage are poisonous, so keep them out of reach of children and pets.

Pineapple Lily Bulbs: Indigenous to South Africa, this Lily thrives in full sun to dappled shade and well-draining soil is crucial. They dislike soggy conditions and can develop root rot.

TIP: Pineapple lilies are generally pest and disease resistant, and they make for great, long-lasting cut-flowers.

Did you Know: Although the bulb is toxic (keep out of reach of children and pets), *Eucomis autumnalis* is used medicinally in South Africa.

Nerine bulbs: Nerines prefer full sun to semi-shade. The key is well-drained soil. Water regularly during the summer growing period. They are relatively pest-resistant, but watch out for snails, slugs, and lily borer caterpillars.

TIP: The flowers attract pollinating insects

Amaryllis Bulbs: They love bright, indirect sunlight. South African sun can be quite strong, so avoid placing them in direct afternoon sun outdoors. Indoors, a sunny windowsill is ideal.

TIP: Amaryllis will benefit from feeding every two weeks with Talborne Nourish Buds, Flowers & Fruit 4:1:6 (11) during the growing season.

Crocosmia Bulbs: Indigenous to South Africa, they thrive in conditions that mimic their natural habitat. They prefer semi-shade.

TIP: Amending the soil with compost and Talborne Vita Grow 2:3:2(16) before planting is beneficial.



Spring & Summer Flowers



Salvias: These flowers are a great choice for South African gardens, thriving in most regions and even performing well in the heat. Most salvias prefer full sun to semi-shade for optimal flowering and are generally drought tolerant once established.

Did you know: Salvias are very attractive to butterflies and honeybees.

Clivias: Hardy, slow growing perennial with beautiful bright orange trumpet shaped-flowers from August to October. Beautiful planted in a shady spot or under trees and makes a great container plant.

TIP: Keep your Clivias healthy by feeding them with Vita Fruit & Flower 3:1:5 (18) and watch out for lily borer at the base of the leaves. At first signs, spray with Biogrow Pyrol and follow up 7 days later.

Agapanthus: Indigenous to South Africa and very popular around the world. Their strap-like leaves and striking flowers make them favourites in garden beds, plant borders and containers. They flower from December to April with new varieties flowering for longer periods. Plant in full-sun or semi-shade. They are becoming very popular as cut-flowers.



Agapanthus Midnight Sky



Agapanthus Fireworks

Tips for Growing the best Agapanthus by Quinton Bean from De Wet Plant Breeders/ The Aloe Farm



When planting your Agapanthus be sure to add lots of quality compost and Talborne Vita Grow 2:3:2 (16). When planting in pots, select a good quality potting soil with good drainage.

Agapanthus are heavy feeders, be sure to feed them every 3 months with Talborne Vita Fruit & Flower 3:1:5 (18) in the garden and more regularly in pots and containers

Proteas (Fynbos): These striking, sculptural flowers are a South African icon. The large blooms are surrounded by colourful bracts and make excellent cut flowers. They prefer well-drained acidic soil.





Tip: Rose Care

Healthy Roses are easy to achieve

Feed your roses with Talborne Vita Fruit and Flower 3:1:5 (18) or Nourish 4:1:6 (11) liquid organic fertilizer in Spring before onset of flowering to provide stress relief and ensure bountiful bushes of blooms in the summer months. Use Talborne Vita Grow 2:3:2 (16) granular fertilizer when planting and pruning.

Roses: Can be planted year round but benefit from being planted in Spring after the last frost, they enjoy a full sun position (6-8 hours per day). Plant in well-drained soil that is rich in organic matter and good nutrition. Roses come in all shapes and sizes: Hybrid teas, floribunda's, heritage roses and climbing roses.

Rhododendron (Azaleas): These evergreens are known for their prolific blooms. Help them thrive by giving them semi-shaded areas and acidic soil. There are species that bloom from autumn to late summer – and those that flower from summer to autumn and bloom again in the spring.

- Plant the above flowers with Talborne Organics Vita Grow 2:3:2 (16) (100g per m² or 1ml per litre size container). Vita Grow has good levels of Phosphate, Calcium, and other essential nutrients to establish strong roots and provide energy and vigour to grow healthy plants.
- Use Vita Fruit & Flower 3:1:5 (18) (100g per m² or 1ml per litre size container) or Talborne Nourish 4:1:6 (11) liquid organic fertilizer (5ml per L water foliar feed or 10ml per L water soil drench) to feed flowering shrubs and plants as they contain high levels of potassium which stimulates flowering, strengthens plant cells and tissue, helps the plant regulate water usage and provides stress relief and resilience to plants.



Spring & Summer Succulents

These easy maintenance plants can bring just the right amount of drama and pizzazz to the garden. Whether it be the architectural forms and shapes or the exquisite flower shows, every garden will benefit from these wanna-be-parched beauties!

Bulbine species

Bulbines are hardy, evergreen, sun-adoring succulents. Flowers are either yellow or orange, species dependant, and are borne throughout the year. They attract a host of pollinators such as insects and bees.

B. frutescens has incredible healing properties and will sooth stings, burns and rashes.

B. abyssinica is a beautiful and important grassland addition and is resistant to scorching in a grass fire



Delosperma cooperi (Coopers Ice Plant)

This hardy show stopper is a fast-growing succulent groundcover, perfect for sandy soils, rockeries and embankments. A blaze of magenta to mauve flowers are borne in Spring and Summer. They require very little human attention... however the myriad of bees and insects that are drawn to the flowers know that a bit more than a human touch is required.



Aloe van balenii; *Aloe thraskii*; *Aloe peglerae*

Aloes are known the world over for their spectacular winter flowers! Beyond the flowering, Aloes bring amazing form, shape and texture to the garden. Consider *Aloe vanbalenii* (Octopus Aloe), whether planted individually or in groups the image of this octopus-like plant tip toeing through the garden beds is quite the sight. *Aloe thraskii* is a large, regal species which makes a bold statement in the landscape. *Aloe peglerae* is a small ground-hugging stemless Aloe with inward curving leaves, creating a compact round shape





Portulacaria afra prostrata (Dwarf Spekboom)

Not your typical shrub-like Spekboom! This wonderful variety has a cascading and creeping habit. Perfect for rockeries, crawling down a retaining wall or as carpet amongst Cycads and other form plants.



Euphorbia mauritanica (Golden Spurge)

This evergreen, quick growing and very hardy rounded shrub, has thin greyish-green cylindrical stems that sway beautifully in the wind. Yellow flowers are produced at the tips of the stems from August to October attracting pollinators from far and wide. An excellent feature plant in rockeries and mixed succulent plantings. Makes an impressive feature as a pot plant.



Crassula multicava (Fairy Crassula)

A shade loving succulent! Who would've thought... but here you have it! The Fairy Crassula thrives in damp or dry spots in light to deep shade. It is a hardy, evergreen succulent with broad leaves. Many dainty star-shaped, pink flowers are borne from May to November. It is a butterfly hot plant and attracts many tiny insects. It thrives as a pot plant or mass-planted in those difficult areas under trees



Kalanchoe sexangularis (Bushveld Kalanchoe)

This succulent is robust, hardy, drought resistant and evergreen. The contrast of yellow flowers and ruby-red leaves in a masse planting puts on a splendid display. The more sun, the greater the show! Tiny pollinating insects are attracted to the tubular shaped flowers.

Fertilizer

Plant your Succulents and Aloes with Talborne Vita Grow 2:3:2 (16), apply 100g per m² or 1ml per L size container. Feed with Vita Fruit & Flower 3:1:5 (18) before onset of flowering and give your succulents a boost with Talborne Nourish Multi-Plant 5:1:4 (10) liquid organic plant food as required.



Tips

Ensure that your soil is well draining by adding compost and river sand. This will help water to flow through quickly and prevent the possibility of root rot.

Don't be shy to cut back on growth that becomes too dense, this will allow air and light to infiltrate dark spots and produce new growth.

Spring & Summer Edible Garden



*Grow Delicious,
Organic Veggies at Home*

Tips from Linda Galvad – Sought After Seedlings

1. It is so important to plant heirloom vegetable seeds as it ensures food security.
2. Gardening organically by not using chemical fertilisers and sprays keeps our GUT health intact, which plays an integral part in our overall health and wellness.
3. Being Soil Health Conscious means feeding your organic vegetables what they need to stay healthy and produce good crops.

Enjoy the benefits of homegrown goodness

- **Healthier food:** Organic vegetables are free from harmful chemicals and often contain higher levels of beneficial nutrients.
- **Superior taste:** Experience the unmatched flavour of freshly picked produce.
- **Family-friendly:** Provide your family with safe, healthy food they'll love.

Spring & Summer planting

- **Warm-season delights:** Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, chillies, eggplants, squash, pumpkins, butternut, potatoes, sweet potatoes.
- **Leafy greens:** Lettuce, spinach, kale, and Swiss chard.
- **Herbs:** Basil, coriander, parsley, mint, and thyme.



Did you Know: *Plectranthus esculentus*/ *Coleus esculentus* also known as the kaffir potato or Livingstone potato, is a species of plant in the dicot family Lamiaceae. It is indigenous to Africa, where it is grown for its edible tubers and is excellent for people with blood sugar problems and diabetes.



Top tips for organic success

- **Sun:** Choose a sunny spot for optimal growth.
- **Seasonality:** Select varieties suited to your climate and season.
- **Plan & Stagger:** Plant a few seeds of each variety every week for continuous harvests.
- **Prepare Beds:** Prep your beds before seedlings are ready for planting.
- **Fresh Seeds:** Use fresh heirloom seeds each season for successful germination.
- **Plant Favourites:** Choose vegetables your family enjoys.
- **Fertilize:** Use appropriate Talborne Organics VITA or NOURISH fertilizers for different veggie types.
- **Water Regularly:** Water vegetables and herbs regularly, especially in dry weather.
- **Mulch:** Apply mulch after seeds germinate to retain moisture and suppress weeds.
- **Natural Pest Control:** Use organic solutions like Biogrow to protect your plants without harmful chemicals.



Explore our Organic Fertilizer ranges

- **Vita Veg 6:3:4 (16):** Perfect for planting & feeding all your leafy green vegetables, herbs and berries
- **Vita Grow 2:3:2 (16):** Ideal for planting all flowering & fruiting plants and fruit trees. Use to plant root & bulb vegetables.
- **Vita Fruit & Flower 3:1:5 (18):** Ideal for feeding fruiting vegetables, vines and fruit trees
- **Nourish Buds, Flowers & Fruit 4:1:6 (11):** Boost flowering & fruiting, apply as a foliar feed or soil drench for stress relief from hot and dry conditions or when experiencing very rainy conditions.

Start your journey to a delicious and nutritious harvest today!

Herbs

Spring & Summer Herbs: Culinary Herbs, Medicinal Herbs, Pet-Safe Herbs, & Herbs for Companion Planting and repelling pests

Culinary Herbs

- **Basil:** Versatile, often used fresh in recipes, used in Italian and Mediterranean dishes and great for making pesto's or adding as a pizza topping.
- **Coriander:** Fresh, slightly citrusy flavour, used in Asian, Indian and Mexican cuisine.
- **Parsley:** Staple in many cuisines, fresh, slightly bitter flavour, chop and use as garnish and in salads.
- **Mint:** Refreshing, used in drinks, desserts, and lamb dishes.
- **Thyme:** Versatile, used in many meat dishes and roasted veggies. Often used in marinades, sauces and rubs to enhance the flavour of meat dishes.

Grow a healthy, vibrant herb garden this spring and summer, and savour its flavours all year round. Harvest, preserve, and enjoy your homegrown herbs for delicious meals throughout the colder months.

Medicinal Plants (consult a healthcare professional before use)

- **Wormwood (*Artemisia afra*):** Supports immune system, coughs, colds, flu. Prefers sun and well-drained soil, can be propagated from seeds or cuttings.
- **Cancer bush (*Sutherlandia frutescens*):** Boosts immune system, alleviates pain, reduces anxiety, thrives in full sun and well-drained soil, can be propagated from seeds, cuttings, or division.
- **Aloe vera:** Soothes skin irritations, digestive issues. While often used for topical applications, aloe vera is technically a succulent plant. However, its medicinal properties and use in herbal remedies have earned it a place among herbs.
- **Calendula:** Anti-inflammatory, promotes wound healing.
- **Chamomile:** Calming, soothes anxiety, digestion.

Important Note: It is crucial to remember that this information is for educational purposes only and should not be interpreted as medical advice. Always consult with a qualified healthcare professional before using any herbal remedies, especially if you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or have any underlying health conditions.



Pet-Safe Herbs (introduce gradually, consult Vet before use)

- **Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*):** Attracts cats, playful and euphoric response. Plant in a controlled area.
- **Chamomile (*Matricaria chamomilla*):** Beneficial for both cats and dogs, calming, soothes anxiety, digestion, skin irritation (usually consumed as a tea but small, supervised quantities of leaves can be given to pets.)
- **Lemon balm:** Calming, like Chamomile (moderate, supervised quantities as large quantities can cause stomach upsets.)

While several herbs are safe for pets, it's important to remember that ingesting large quantities of any plant material can be harmful to them. It's crucial to supervise your pet around any planted herbs and consult a veterinarian before allowing them to consume any.

Note: This is not an exhaustive list. Research specific needs of each herb or vegetable before planting. Remember, consult a healthcare professional before using any herbs for medicinal purposes, and consult a veterinarian before giving herbs to pets.



Companion Planting

Pest Control

- **Basil:** Repels aphids, whitefly, fruit fly and beetles
- **Marigolds:** Their strong scent serves as a natural deterrent to repel root knot nematodes (not beneficial nematodes), thrips, whitefly and aphids.
- **Garlic:** Garlic has anti-feedant (stop feeding), bacterial, fungicidal, insecticidal, nematicidal and repellent properties. Garlic is reportedly effective against a wide range of disease-causing pathogens and insects at different stages in their life cycle (egg, larvae, adult). Garlic can help to prevent fungal diseases and repels ants, aphids, slugs, snails and carrot fly.
- **Mint:** Deters aphids, beetles and crawling insects. Spreads aggressively so plant with caution
- **Lavender:** Attracts pollinators, repels flies, mosquitoes, moths with its strong scent.
- **Dill:** Repels aphids and red spider mite

Beneficial Insects

- **Dill:** Attracts beneficial insects like ladybirds and lacewings. It is also a natural insect repellent in the garden.
- **Basil:** Attracts beneficial insects like bees and butterflies into the garden which help to pollinate your plants.
- **Fennel:** Attracts beneficial insects like ladybirds and lacewings.
- **Coriander:** The tiny coriander flowers accommodate beneficial insects like parasitoid wasps and hoverflies.
- **Rosemary:** Fragrant evergreen shrub attracts bees and butterflies with its blue flowers in early spring. Pairs well with beans, carrots and potatoes.
- **Sage:** Has a slight peppery flavour. Deters cabbage moths, whiteflies. Complements onions, tomatoes, squash.
- **Parsley:** Biannual herb, attracts hoverflies, butterflies and wasps with small yellow flowers. Good companion for tomatoes, asparagus, carrots.
- **Oregano:** Pairs well with tomatoes, peppers, brinjals. Attracts ladybirds and lacewings.

Remember, companion planting is not an exact science, and the best combinations may vary. However, these suggestions can provide a good starting point for creating a thriving and healthy spring and summer gardens.

Tips for Companion Planting

Vegetables

Tomatoes: Benefit from basil (improves growth and enhances flavour), marigolds (pest repellent – controls whitefly and attracts pollinators), and companion planting with beans (beans and tomatoes are perfect together as beans add Nitrogen back into the Soil which tomatoes need)

Peppers: Benefit from basil (improves growth and flavour and repels insects such as aphids, spider mite, thrips and mosquito's), marigolds (control whitefly), and companion planting with onions (prevents pests and diseases).

Cucumbers: Benefit from marigolds, dill, and companion planting with beans.

Squash and Butternut: Benefit from being planted alongside beans, celery, marigold, nasturtium, onions and radish

Sweet Potatoes and Potatoes: Benefit from Radish, green beans, marigold, yarrow.

Brinjals: Benefit from beans, echinacea, peppers, coriander, cucumber, marigold, potato.



Tips for Companion Planting

Flowers

Marigolds: These vibrant yellow and orange flowers not only add beauty to your garden but also deter aphids, whiteflies, nematodes, and even some rabbits and buck. They are good companions for a variety of vegetables, including tomatoes, peppers and beans.

Nasturtiums: These edible flowers attract beneficial insects like bees and hoverflies and also deter aphids, squash bugs, and whiteflies. They make good companions for tomatoes, cucumbers, and squash.

Calendula: Is part of the daisy family and is an all-rounder and one of the best companion plants. It attracts beneficial insects and repels pests such as tomato worms and nematodes. Plant them with tomatoes, carrots and asparagus. Flavours range from spicy to bitter, tangy to peppery.

Borage: Also known as starflower due to its lovely corn flower blue or white star-shaped flowers. Attracts pollinators and aids any plants that it is interplanted with by increasing resistance to pests and disease.

Spring Tips – Jane Griffiths (Jane’s Delicious Garden)



To prevent tender seedlings being flattened by late frost or spring hail, cover them with cheap plastic laundry baskets. These can quickly be enclosed with frost cloth or hay if a late frost threatens. The baskets also prevent birds from snacking on seedlings. They are quicker and easier to use than erecting bird netting over the entire bed. Choose ones with perforated bases to allow rain to pass through.

A cloche (a translucent cover) is also good for protecting individual seedlings from birds, cutworms, slugs, snails and wind, and it creates a moist microclimate. These are particularly useful in early spring, when nights are still chilly. Make your own by cutting the bottom off a two-litre plastic bottle and placing it over the seedling, pushing the rim firmly into the soil to stop cutworms. Take the lid off first or cut the top section open so that the plant can breathe. Once the seedling is big enough, remove the cloche.

Don’t transplant all your spring seedlings at once. Leave two thirds in a sheltered spot and plant them out in stages over the next three to four weeks. This staggers the harvest, so you don’t have everything ripening at once. Plus, if seedlings in the ground are hit by hail or pests, you have a back-up plan.

On a weekend when you have more time, prepare a larger area of your garden than required for that day’s planting. Keep buckets of ready-mixed sowing and transplanting mix in the shed. This makes it much quicker over the next few weeks to quickly pop into the garden and sow or transplant a few more seeds and seedlings.



Seed Tips – Sean Freeman (Livingseeds)



Seed saving is a core tenant of heirloom varieties, start with easy varieties that require minimal effort to keep pure.

Beans, Lettuce and Peas reliably set pure seed as they are obligate self-pollinators, even planted in the same garden. This helps you to start your seed saving journey with ease.

Chilies are long season, heat loving crops that require bottom heat to germinate. This is especially true for the hotter varieties that can be quite stubborn if not given sufficient heat.

A heating pad designed specifically for seed germination is the shortest path to success. **Pro Tip:** A heating pad also speeds up germination of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, pumpkins and melons.

Use heirloom seeds’ inherent genetic traits for maximum yields, plant bush and pole beans at the same time, the bush will produce first and by the time they are finished the pole beans are ready to take over. The same can be done with Determinate and indeterminate tomatoes and bush and vining squash; In fact, any heirloom crop has early and late producers giving you maximum yields with minimum effort.



Fruit Trees, Vines and Berries

Fruit Trees

Here are some of the most popular fruit trees that organic gardeners are growing. Spring is a good time for planting fruit trees and fruiting vines:

- **Citrus:** Plant and feed Oranges, Lemons, Grapefruits, Limes, Blood Oranges, Naartjies, Tangerines, Clementines, Satsumas, Kumquats, Finger limes.
- **Deciduous Fruit - Stone Fruit:** Plant and feed Peaches, Nectarines, Apricots, Plums and Cherries. Apricots offer a burst of flavour and sweetness and can be planted in spring but are harvested in summer. Peaches and Nectarines offer sweetness in late summer and early autumn.
- **Deciduous Fruit - Pome Fruit:** Apples, Pears, Quinces, Figs, Pomegranates. Some Apple and Pear varieties can be successfully grown in South Africa's summer.
- **Pomegranates:** Beautiful trees producing delicious fruits in late summer & autumn.
- **Sub-Tropical Fruit:** Bananas, Papayas, Mangos, Litchis, Pineapples, Guavas, Avos. Guavas and Avos are evergreen and typically bear fruit in summer. Mango trees are deciduous and produce their delicious, tropical flavoured fruits in summer.
- **Nuts:** Macadamias, Pecans, Almonds.
- **Berries:** Strawberries, Cape Gooseberries, Blueberries, Raspberries, Blackberries, Youngberries, Cranberries, Goji Berries. You don't have to wait too long for your first pickings as most berries will bear fruit within their first year after planting and most berries are self-pollinating.
- **Dragon Fruit (Succulent):** Dragon fruit is a tropical cactus that is becoming increasingly popular in South Africa. Its fruits are known for their vibrant appearance and unique flavour. It can be propagated from cuttings and bears fruit in summer or early autumn. It has large white flowers that open at night which are pollinated by nocturnal moths and bats.

Tips for sheltering your Fruit Trees



Choose a sheltered location: Fruit trees prefer areas protected from strong winds.

Facilitate pollinator access: Ensure bees, insects, and birds can easily reach your trees.

Consider windbreaks: Plant semi-permanent or permanent windbreaks to shield trees from harsh winds.

Utilize shrubs or bushes: Hedges and berry-producing plants can serve as effective windbreaks.





Vines

- **Granadilla (Passion Fruit):** Granadilla vines produce their unique fruits in summer. They like to be kept moist but not waterlogged, good drainage is essential, and clay soil is not recommended. Thorough and deep watering is especially important when fruits are maturing.
- **Kiwi Fruit:** Kiwi fruit vines are either Self-Pollinating (produce fruit from a single plant) or Dioecious (male and female plants are required for pollination). They are vigorous climbers and require strong trellis support to grow optimally, they typically bear fruit in late summer or early Autumn. Kiwi Fruit are often considered a superfood and have a tangy, tropical taste with a hint of sweetness.
- **Grapes:** There are many varieties of table grapes to choose from. They bear fruit in late summer or early autumn. They prefer warm, sunny climates (6-8 hours of direct sunlight per day) with well-drained soil.
- **Watermelon and other Melon Varieties (Spanspek and Honeydew Melon):** Grows best in full sun, require garden beds with a good soil depth to accommodate their extensive root system. Melons require soil rich in organic matter and nutrition so add good quality, weed free compost and Talborne fertilizers and ensure that there is good drainage.

For delicious, homegrown, organic fruit, plant your Fruit Trees and Vines with Talborne Vita Grow 2:3:2 (16) and feed before onset of flowering with Vita Fruit & Flower 3:1:5 (18) or Nourish Buds, Flowers & Fruit 4:1:6 (11).

Remember: The best choice for your garden will depend on your specific climate, soil conditions, and personal preferences. Research the specific needs of each fruit tree or vine before planting and ask your nearest Nursery for advice that is tailored to your region.

Food for Thought: Healthy, organic food is essential for our well-being. Consider your food future and choose organic gardening methods that nourish the soil, the plants, and ultimately, ourselves.



Recipes



HERBAL SALT (Jane Griffiths - Jane's Delicious Garden)

In spring, herbs burst with growth, and they can be used to make delicious herbal salt. Blending fresh, strongly flavoured herbs with sea salt creates a bright-green, healthy condiment. Salt is a natural preservative which absorbs the herbs' fresh flavour as they slowly dry. Basil, rosemary, marjoram, oregano, parsley, winter savoury and or thyme all work well.

Rosemary and lime salt

- ½ cup packed fresh rosemary leaves
- 1½ cups sea salt
- 1 tbs lime zest

Blend rosemary until finely chopped. Add salt and blend further until smooth and green. Mix in the lime zest and seal in an airtight container.



PLUM BLOSSOM VINEGAR (Jane Griffiths - Jane's Delicious Garden)

This was one of the first herbal remedies I ever made. I have found it to be a wonderful recipe for people who use their voices – singers, public speakers, lecturers and the like. As a gargle it soothes and strengthens stressed throats and voice boxes. It is the ideal remedy for a sore throat after a night out shouting over loud music!

Mix 1 cup of blossoms with the vinegar in a bottle and leave in the sun for 10 days, shaking regularly. Strain and add a second cup of blossoms. Leave to infuse for 6 weeks. Strain and pour into a sterilised bottle and seal.

To use, dilute in some water and gargle.



BASIL PESTO

- ½ cup of toasted almonds
- 2 TBS fresh lemon juice
- 1 small clove of garlic
- Pinch of salt and pepper
- 2 cups of freshly picked and washed basil leaves
- ¼ cup of Olive Oil
- ¼ cup of freshly grated Parmesan Cheese

In a food processor, combine nuts, lemon juice, garlic, salt and pepper. Pulse until well chopped. Add Basil and pulse till combined. With food processor running, drizzle in olive oil. Add Parmesan and pulse briefly to combine. For smoother pesto add more olive oil.



HOMEMADE FRESH STRAWBERRY AND YOGHURT ICE LOLLY

Ingredients

- 400g Strawberries, hulled and roughly chopped
- 150g Natural plain yoghurt/ dairy free yoghurt alternative like coconut yoghurt
- 30g Castor Sugar/ 2 tbsp honey (or to taste as preferred)

Method

- Tip the strawberries into a blender, food processor or smoothie-maker and blitz to a purée. Add the yogurt and blitz again to combine.
- Taste for sweetness and add as much sugar or honey as needed – this will depend on the ripeness of the fruit as well as your personal taste.
- Divide the mixture evenly between the holes of a six-hole ice lolly mould – they should be filled to the brim.
- Insert the lolly sticks and freeze for 4 hrs or until solid.
- Makes 6 lollies
- Will keep frozen for up to a month

Recipes

BRINJAL SALAD (“Salata De Vinete”)

- **Oil** – Traditionally we use sunflower oil. If you can't find it use another neutral tasting oil, just not olive oil. Olive oil has a very strong flavour, we want more of a mildly flavoured oil.
- **Eggplant** – We're using 4 large eggplants today to get lots of dip.
- **Onion** – Use whichever kind of onion variety you like as you are going to be using them raw.
- **Seasoning** – Add Salt and pepper to taste.

Make sure the eggplants are either roasted or grilled until they are fork tender and easy to peel. As a result, this eggplant dip has a nice, Smokey flavour.

1. Cook the brinjals: You can either grill or roast the brinjals in the oven at 180 degrees celcius. Place them on a baking sheet, poke some holes in the eggplants with a fork, this is a very important step. If you don't poke them, you'll risk them exploding in the oven. Make sure they are baked very well, for about 45 minutes, turning them every 15 minutes using a pair of tongs. Once they are done, let them cool completely.
2. Peel the brinjals: Once cooled, peel them using a knife. If you've cooked them enough, the peel should come off easily. Remove any of the dark peel. Transfer them to a colander over a bowl and let them drain for about 20 minutes. Extract as much water from them as possible.
3. Blend the dip: Place the brinjals in a food processor, add the onion, salt and oil and pulse a few times until smooth. Chill for about 30 minutes before serving in the fridge, it's best served cold.

Tips

Garlic can be added to this dip when blending it to give it extra flavour.

For a creamier dip, add some mayonnaise when blending the dip.

Serve with a nice homemade crusty bread, pita's, crackers, carrot sticks, sliced cucumbers, bell pepper slices, tomato slices on top or celery sticks for a delicious snack.

Sean's Chilli Pickle Relish (Sean Freeman, Livingseeds)

This is a raw pickle; the only thing that is cooked is half of the onions.

Ingredients

- 1 cup yellow mustard seed (Livingseeds sprouting seed works well)
- 5 cup brown sugar
- 3L brown grape or malt vinegar
- 800ml chopped garlic
- 10 onions sliced thinly and fried in olive oil until translucent
- 10 onions raw, sliced thinly into strips
- 1 1/2 cups salt
- 100g tamarind
- 250ml lemon juice
- approx. 4kg mild chillies (both red and green) sliced into rounds

* Chillies can be “defused” by removing a percentage of the seeds. We generally do not add any loose seed that falls out and just keep what is in the rounds.

Method

- Heat 2 cups vinegar and dissolve tamarind and strain. Discard bits.
- Add everything except the onions into a plastic sealable container.
- Using a stick blender, roughly blend half of the mix.
- Now add the onions.
- Wait 2 weeks and bottle.
- Put bottles in the sun, turning every day for a week.
- Keep bottles in a dark place until ready for use.
- To use, roughly drain the vinegar, leaving about 1/5 of the vinegar in the bottle. Add olive oil, shake, and use as a relish on basically anything.

PEPPERMINT BODY SCRUB

- Remove Peppermint leaves from stem, rinse
- Remove Rosemary and Blue Eucalyptus leaves from stem and rinse
- Take 50g of each herb, chop and put into a bowl
- Add zest of 2 lemons
- Add 1 tbsp black pepper
- Add 300ml Olive Oil in a pan, along with chopped herbs, pepper and lemon zest and bring up to heat. After 2 minutes on high heat, strain in a muslin cloth
- 400g of sea salt
- Add strained oil together with sea salt and mix till you get a paste
- Put in a jar and can store for up to a year.

OLIVE LEAF FACE MASK

- Take 1 cup of Olive leaves and cut up finely
- Add to a pot with 2 cups of water and bring to a boil
- Once boiling, turn down heat and allow to simmer for 10 minutes
- Reduce for another 10 minutes
- Add 4 x tbsp clay powder to the water
- Add 15 drops of lemon essential oil and mix together till it becomes a paste

DECONGESTANT CHEST RUB

- Chop up 2 cups of Eucalyptus leaves
- 10g grated Ginger
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 200ml Coconut Oil, Sweet Almond or Olive Oil
- With a lid on, suspend bowl over a pan of hot water, heat for an hour till emerald green, strain
- Add 20 drops of peppermint essential oil
- Rub on chest to assist with decongesting
- Sealed jar keeps up to a year

Pest and Disease Control for Spring & Summer

Disease is a **DIS/EASE**, whether it be in our plants, animals or our bodies. When our plants have a **DISEASE** or **PEST** attacking them, we need to look for the reason (The DIS/EASE or Stress) in our plants.



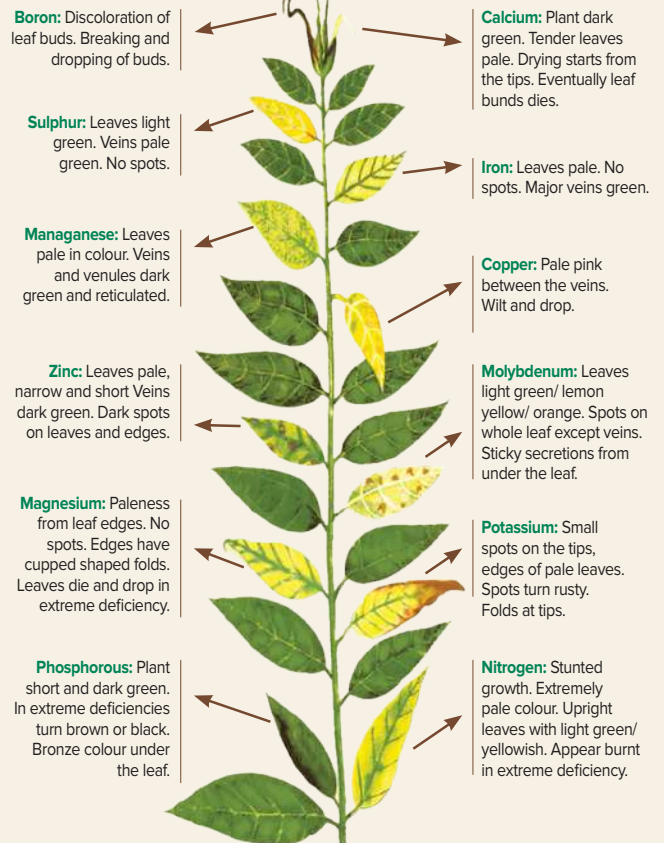
Stress in our plants can be caused by several factors, here are a few below:

- Lack of nutrition in the soil and therefore the plants are deficient and showing signs of stress as all living systems need food and nutrition to function optimally.
- Soil health and structural problems – Clay soils, sandy soils, compacted soils, soils that don't contain much organic matter, soils that aren't mulched.
- pH problems – Soil either too acidic (Low pH) or too alkaline (High pH) affects efficient and optimal uptake of nutrients
- Lack of watering, overwatering and inconsistent watering
- Plants positioned and planted in the wrong area's: Sun-loving plants in the shade, shade-loving plants in the sun
- Seeds or plants that have been germinated or planted outside of their correct growing seasons

Some of the main Pest and Disease problems in Spring & Summer

- **Fruit Fly:** Collect & destroy all fallen fruit from the ground to reduce fruit fly numbers. Control fruit fly on your fruit trees by scouting and monitoring your fruit trees from early spring up to two weeks before the fruit ripens and use a preventative spraying program of Biogrow Bioneem and Biogrow Pyrol. Spray mixture every 7 days to 2 weeks to control and break the breeding cycle. Once hatched, the larvae feed on the inside of the fruit causing it to rot and fall. Use pheromone traps to lure and trap male insect pests before they start a new generation.
- **False Codling Moth:** These small grey moths lay eggs on the surface of developing fruit (most often stone fruit). Once hatched the larvae penetrate the fruit leading to internal damage and premature fruit drop. It's prevalent in the warm spring and summer months. Use Biogrow Bioneem and False Codling Moth pheromone traps to attract targeted male pests before they can mate and start a new generation.
DID YOU KNOW: A Male False Codling Moth can sense the pheromone released by a female from 1225m away, using a specialised gland on its wing.
- **Pumpkin Fly:** Use Pumpkin Fly Pheromone traps to lure the female fly. Hang them about 30 – 40 cm above the ground in between the leaves of the squash and butternut plants.

Deficiency Chart of Micronutrients



The colours represented are indicative. They may vary from plant to plant.

- **Whitefly:** Treat whitefly on deciduous fruit, ornamentals and vegetables with Biogrow Bioneem
- **Aphids:** Sap-sucking insects that suck the sap from new leaf growth, flower buds and underside of leaves. Ants and aphids have a beneficial relationship as aphids provide ants with honeydew from plants. Spray with Biogrow Neudosan (light infestation), Biogrow Bioneem or Biogrow Pyrol (heavy infestation) depending on level of infestation.

TIP: Spray Biogrow Pyrol late afternoon or early evening as Pyrol is active through the night and is broken down by sunlight. Spray today, Eat tomorrow.

Feed plants with Talborne Fertilizers to strengthen them against pest & disease attack and provide resilience to climatic extremes.



- **Chafer Beetles/Christmas Beetles (brown beetle) and Fruit Chafer Beetles (black and yellow beetle):** These beetles can cause significant damage to your fruit trees, ornamentals and vegetables which can be identified by ragged edges and holes throughout the leaves of your plants making their leaves look like lace. Be on the lookout to catch them as early as possible as they burrow into the soil during the day and come out at night. Treat swiftly with Biogrow Bioneem which disrupts feeding and insect behaviour.

TIP: Ensure the neem products you use contain the active ingredient (Azadirachtin), otherwise they won't have the desired pest control effect.

- **Fungal Diseases** – Blackspot, Mildew, Rust and Mould: Use Biogrow Copper Soap (ultra-low load copper fungicide for disease control) + Biogrow Phyta (boosts plant immunity, disease resistance & improves plant health) to treat fungal diseases. Apply during high pressure infection periods, ensuring coverage on leaf surfaces, avoiding run-off and reapply post rainfall.
- **Red Spider Mite:** Hot and dry conditions create an ideal environment for these pests. Roses, tomatoes and indoor plants are particularly vulnerable to these tiny pests that cause leaves to yellow and wither. Spray Biogrow Pyrol onto affected plants and prevent spider mite populations from bouncing back with Biogrow Bioneem. This organic insecticide disrupts the mites' life cycle stopping them from multiplying and infesting our gardens again.
- **Australian Bug and Mealy Bug:** Australian bugs are often mistaken for large mealy bugs and are often missed by gardeners as they like to hide under branches, twigs and leaves or on shaded parts of plants. Treat Australian bug or Mealy bug with Biogrow Neudosan or Biogrow Pyrol (bad infestations).



- **Slugs and Snails:** These moisture-loving creatures become highly active during spring and summer due to summer rains and increased moisture, humidity and temperatures. They feed on a variety of plants, leaving slime trails, and causing damage by chewing holes in leaves. Use Biogrow Ferramol organic slug and snail bait to combat these infestations.
- **Lily borers in amaryllis, agapanthus and clivias:** The moths have a short breeding cycle, with larvae emerging in spring and summer as black and yellow caterpillars. Eggs are laid on leaves at night with larvae either tunnelling or feeding on leaves. Watch for them from August to October. Manually remove caterpillars or use Biogrow Pyrol with Bioneem at night. Repeat after 7 days, then spray Pyrol & Bioneem mix 3 weeks later to halt new larvae.

** See Tips for Companion planting on page 15 as a natural pest control option to assist in deterring various pests **

Tip

Biogrow Pest & Disease Control Products can be mixed together and applied at once. For more information on the Biogrow products, visit www.talborne.co.za and download the Biogrow product information leaflet.



Biogrow: Spray Today, Eat Tomorrow

Organic Solutions for Common Gardening Problems

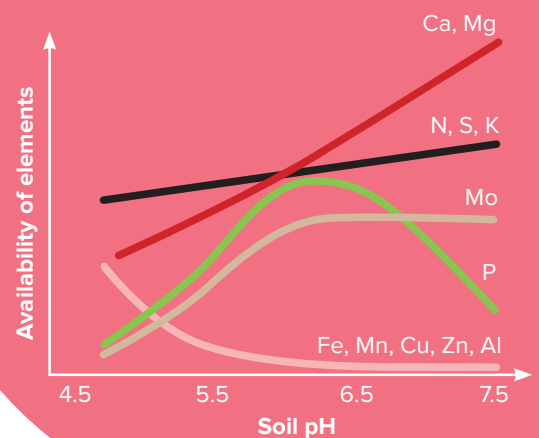
- **Unbalanced pH** is the cause of lots of problems and usually easy and cheap to address
- **Mole Crickets in Lawns:** Anaerobic Soils (soils not open & oxygenated) means poor soil structure, rotting plant matter gives off methane gas rather than decomposition when soils have good structure and aeration, Mole Crickets are attracted to the methane gas of rotting roots.
- **Weeds are a Symptom, not the cause of a problem:** Certain Weeds grow in certain conditions that they are trying to correct: Learn to read your weeds. Use Biogrow Finalsan (organic, non-selective herbicide) which is glyphosate free, it swiftly dehydrates and withers weeds upon contact (targets grasses, dandelions, blackjacks, broadleaf weeds, thistles, algae and mosses)
TIP: Finalsan is safe for kids, pets, beneficial insects and birds.
- **White clover or Vetch:** Nitrogen Fixing so bringing Nitrogen into the Soil. If you don't want clover or vetch in your lawns, feed your lawns with a high Nitrogen fertilizer like Vita Green 5:1:5 (16) or Nourish Leafy Greens 7:1:2 (10)



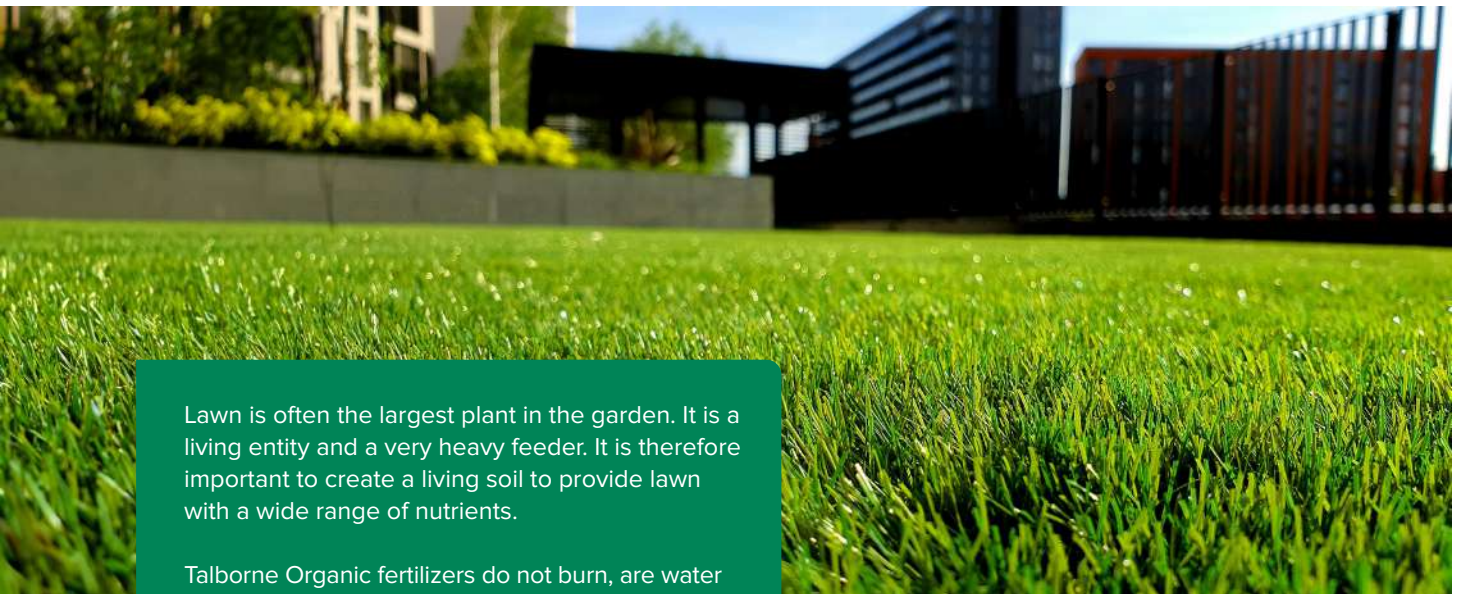
- **Citrus Psylla (Citrus/Lemon Trees):** Curly, bumpy leaves: Trees are in stress, you will see ants and aphids active too. Depending on level of infestation, if not too infested, spray with Biogrow Neudosan to control, if infestation is bad, then use Biogrow Pyrol and Biogrow Bioneem. Spray down trunk of trees too. Feed with Talborne Vita Fruit & Flower 3:1:5 (18) or Nourish Buds, Flowers & Fruit 4:1:6 (11) packed with nutrients to correct stress and improve trees resilience to attack.
- **Cut Worm/ Blossom-End Rot:** Calcium deficiency, if you get good levels of Calcium in when you plant, you won't have these issues occurring. Use Vita Grow 2:3:2 (16) or Vita Bone Phos 4:10:0 (14) when planting as they contain high Calcium and Phosphate levels.
- **Flowers dropping:** Lack of Pollination, Soil fertility or nutritional deficiencies or watering problems (over, under or inconsistent-watering)
- **Termites:** They are Soil Conditioners so are trying to condition soil by their activities (e.g. taking Organic Matter underground). It's a longer-term process but compost and add mulch to build organic matter levels in soil. When soil organic matter is built up, termites will disappear as they no longer have a job to do as sandy soil conditions have been improved.
- **Soil drying out too quickly:** Use Organic Principles of regular composting & mulch at least twice a year as organic matter/carbon burns off very quickly due to strong sun & hot conditions. Use Talborne Organic Earthworm Castings to add humus to your soil and Biogrow Integrate (reduces water requirements by 30 – 50%) to retain and conserve water and boost oxygen to the plant roots.

Tip

Adjust your soil pH (acidic or alkaline soils) to optimize nutrient availability and ensure that your plants have access to the essential nutrients they require for healthy growth.



Spring & Summer Lawn Care



Lawn is often the largest plant in the garden. It is a living entity and a very heavy feeder. It is therefore important to create a living soil to provide lawn with a wide range of nutrients.

Talborne Organic fertilizers do not burn, are water smart and are safe to use around children and pets.

Lawn Spring Treatment

Spring treatment occurs once a year at springtime to help boost the lawn for the active growth months ahead

Here are the steps below:

- Scarify the lawn to remove thatch build up.
 - If the soil is compacted, correct by either aerating using a garden fork, a spiked roller or hollow tine equipment for larger areas and especially if the lawn experiences heavy traffic or compacted soil.
 - Apply lawn dressing that has been enriched with organic earthworm castings (250ml or 1 cup per m²), this increases the humus content of the soil, adds structure, retains moisture and builds the soil microbial life. Rake a 1cm layer of lawn dressing over the lawn using a plastic rake, taking care not to rip up the grass and to fill uneven areas to level the lawn where possible.
- TIP:** Don't top dress LM lawn or All Seasons Evergreen
- Apply Vita Veg 6:3:4 (16) fertilizer at 100g per m² to help kickstart growth. This will help to condition roots, ensure a good knit and boost growth and greening.
 - Water well.
 - Feed with Nourish Leafy Greens 7:1:2 (10) by diluting 1:10 to 1:20 (10ml per Litre water) for soil drench and 1:100 to 1:200 (5ml per Litre water) for foliar feed applications.



Tip

If your soil is acidic and there are a lot of weeds in your lawn, apply Agricultural Lime at 200g per m² to balance soil pH and assist with controlling weeds. (Lime application would need to be repeated until weeds die back)

November:

- Apply Vita Green 5:1:5 (16) at 100g per m²
- Give your lawn an additional boost with Nourish Leafy Greens 7:1:2 (10) during hot, dry or rainy weather.
- Apply Agricultural Lime at 200g per m² to tackle weeds in lawn

February:

- Apply Vita Green 5:1:5 (16) at 100g per m²
- Give your lawn an additional boost with Nourish Leafy Greens 7:1:2 (10) during hot, dry or rainy weather.
- Apply Agricultural Lime at 200g per m² to tackle weeds in lawn

How to plant a new organic lawn

Step 1: Prepare soil by digging to loosen compact soil, and remove stones, shrubs, weeds or building rubble in topsoil.

Step 2: Condition soil by spreading 250ml - 500ml Organic Earthworm Castings and 200ml dolomitic lime onto soil for every 1m², then till into soil and rake to a perfect level.

Step 3: Sprinkle 100g per m² of Vita Grow 2:3:2 (16) for strong and healthy roots.

Step 4: Place roll-on lawn, or plant runners. For planting lawn seeds spread over surface as directed on seed packet. Spread a thin layer of topsoil over seed just to cover.

Step 5: Water immediately, and daily to prevent drying and until seeds have germinated and roots have established. Thereafter adjust watering to climatic conditions.

How to convert an established lawn to Organic

Step 1: If soil under lawn is compacted or contains building rubble, dig up the worst parts to refresh soil and replant. If a dry 'thatch' has built up, remove it by raking gently without creating bare patches. If lawn is not in bad condition, aerate soil with a garden fork for small areas or lawn aerating roller for extensive areas.

Step 2: If lawn is weed ridden, try to remove weeds by hand. As weeds grow best in acid or compacted soils often caused by using chemical fertilizers, avoid the use of herbicides by adjusting the soil's pH by dusting soil with Agricultural (Dolomitic) lime at 30ml per m² and repeat application after 3 months until weeds die out.

Step 3: Improve Soil Structure by applying top-dressing as follows: **For heavy clay or sandy soils:** Mix 3 parts lawn dressing or fine compost to every 1 part Organic Earthworm Castings. Per m² area spread at a rate of 2 litres, and then sprinkle 100g Vita Grow 2:3:2 (16) organic fertilizer.

Step 4: Water well and regularly in Spring & Summer. Ensure leaves dry off before nightfall to prevent fungal disease from developing.

Step 5: Fertilize with Vita Green 5:1:5 (16) organic fertilizer every 4 to 5 months at 100g per m² or apply Nourish Leafy Greens 7:1:2 (10) every 2 weeks or as required to maintain a stunning green and healthy lawn, good enough to play on.



Create an outdoor retreat that's as inviting as it is environmentally friendly.

Follow our organic lawn care guide for a lush, green lawn your family will love.

Spring & Summer Ornamental Grasses

Embrace the beauty of indigenous and exotic grasses for your Spring and Summer Garden! South Africa offers an impressive variety of ornamental grasses that thrive in our warm climate and add visual interest year-round. Discover these captivating options:



Carex species (Sedge)

Fact: Many varieties to choose from: Eg. 'Sea Green', 'Red Rooster', 'Frosted Curls')

Very popular evergreen grasses known for their various forms, sizes, textures and colours. They like more moist conditions, and they can take shade or sun depending on the variety.

Tip: They work well in prairie-style plantings mixed with a variety of summer-flowering perennials or en masse in a contemporary style garden.



Anthericum saundersiae (Weeping Antherisum)

Fact: Hardy and evergreen, producing sprays of white flowers and seeds year-round. Grows in sun or shade. Attracts birds, a variety of insects and carpenter bees to the garden.

Tip: Create a mixed planting with Crocosmia and Arum Lilies to create a splash of seasonal colour.

Important addition to a conservation garden.



Setaria megaphylla (Broad-leaved Bristle Grass)

Fact: Beautiful, evergreen grass for a shady spot in the garden, moisture loving with broad ribbed leaves, bright green in colour, long spikes of brown seeds attract seed-eating birds to the garden.

Tip: It is quite a large grass (up to 1m in height) which is bold and impactful when planted on its own or in groups.



Ampelodesmos mauritanicus (Patagonia Grass)

Fact: Not a well-known grass but so worth having in the garden. A large perennial clump-forming evergreen ornamental grass with tough leathery green leaves. It grows up to 1m in height and bears arching stems up to 2m tall with feathery, drooping whitish cream seedheads that sway gently in the breeze. Likes full sun.

Tip: Beautiful feature planted in troughs where the leaves can hang over the edge.



Melinis nerviglumis (Bristle-leaved Red Top)

Fact: This grass has plumes of shiny, fluffy, pink to red seedheads that appear year-round, attracts small seed-eating birds, it is very hardy, semi-deciduous and has beautiful greyish green leaves. Likes full sun or semi shade.

Tip: Wonderful addition to a grassland garden.



Let the rhythmic sway of ornamental grasses fill your garden with life and beauty.

These versatile plants offer a stunning backdrop throughout the seasons, adding depth and interest to your landscape.

Spring & Summer Trees and Shrubs



Spring and summer is the time when your garden comes alive with vibrant blooms and lush greenery. With a little extra care during these warmer months, you can ensure your trees and shrubs thrive throughout the season. Here are some beautiful options to consider

Trees

Get ready to grow! South Africa dedicates the first week of September to celebrating trees with National Arbor Week.

This year we celebrate:



Searsia lancea (Karee)

- **Tenacious and Tough:** The Karee is a true survivor, thriving in the harsh and dry conditions of South Africa. It's found throughout most provinces except KwaZulu-Natal, showcasing its adaptability.
- **Shape Shifter:** The Karee can grow as a single-stemmed tree reaching up to 7 meters tall, or it can adopt a multi-stemmed shrubby form depending on environmental factors.
- **Leafy Canopy:** The Karee boasts a dense, round canopy formed by its soft, feathery leaves. This provides welcome shade during our hot South African summers.
- **A Feathered Feast:** The Karee's feathery leaves are a favourite food source for browsing animals like antelope and goats.
- **Water Wise Wonder:** The Karee is a champion of water conservation. Its small leaves and shallow root system minimize water loss, making it ideal for arid regions.
- **A Touch of History:** The name "Sersia" honors Paul B. Sears, a renowned botanist, while "lancea" refers to the lance-shaped leaflets of the tree.
- **Folklore and Medicine:** Some cultures in South Africa have traditionally used parts of the Karee for medicinal purposes.

- **Friends with Benefits:** The Karee can form a symbiotic relationship with certain nitrogen-fixing bacteria in its root nodules. This helps the tree obtain essential nitrogen from the air, enriching the soil in the process.
- **A Buzzing Hotspot:** The Karee's flowers attract a variety of pollinators, including bees and butterflies, contributing to a healthy and vibrant ecosystem.
- **Fire Adapted:** The Karee has a remarkable ability to withstand fires. Its bark is fire-resistant, and the plant can regenerate from underground suckers after a blaze.
- **Sunshine champion:** The Karee loves sunshine! Plant it in a location that receives at least 6-8 hours of direct sunlight per day.

Heteropyxis natalensis (Lavender Tree)

- A hardy, slender semi deciduous tree with an interesting bark that with age develops textured patches on it. The leaves, when crushed smell of lavender and are shiny, waxy and pale green in colour. The leaves can be used for herbal tea and potpourri. It likes full sun to semi shade. Its scented flowers, borne September to March attract butterflies and other insects.



Tip

It is an ideal tree for small gardens and makes a great container plant.

Combretum erythrophyllum (River Bushwillow)

- Very hardy, fast growing and drought resistant medium to large tree. It has beautiful yellow to red autumn colours. It has white puffball flowers from September to November that are fragrant and attract birds and insects. Plant in sun or semi-shade.

**Celtis africana (White Stinkwood)**

- This large, fast growing, deciduous tree is very hardy and drought resistant. It's a host plant to butterflies and moths. Birds like the small yellow berries that are produced abundantly in summer. It is an excellent garden and wildlife tree and has medicinal uses.

Lagerstroemia indica (Pride of India)

- This deciduous tree produces blooms in a variety of colours including lilac, mauve, pale pink, rose pink, red and white. It's a very showy small tree carrying masses of flowers in summer. It likes full sun, is frost hardy and requires winter pruning to encourage masses of blooms.

**Did you Know**

Natural Forest areas are disappearing at a rate of 1 x soccer field every 2 seconds globally.



Shrubs

Mackaya bella (Forest Bell Bush)

- One of SA's favourite, shade-loving evergreen shrubs. It has dark green glossy leaves with magnificent bunches of lilac to white trumpet shaped flowers from early spring to November. It grows best in full shade but will take some dappled shade. The flowers attract pollinating insects.

TIP: It is an excellent container plant. Prune regularly to encourage floral abundance.



Bauhinia galpinii (Pride-of-de-Kaap)

- A rambling, hardy and deciduous shrub or climber that is drought and frost resistant. It bears masses of beautiful terracotta-coloured flowers in summer to late autumn. It grows well in poor soils. Plant in sun or semi-shade. It's a host to the Brown Playboy and Orange Barred Playboy butterfly larvae which feed on the seeds.

TIP: It is particularly effective on a slope or cascading over a wall.

Salvia leucantha (Mexican Sage Bush)

- Evergreen perennial that likes full to partial sun with well-drained soil. It is tough and wind resistant. It has greyish green leaves and velvet-like purple flower spikes. Bees love this Salvia.

TIP: Plant in a hedge row 800mm apart or in bold groups.



Pittosporum tenuifolium (Pittosporum)

- This small evergreen tree or large shrub is popular for its attractive coloured foliage and black stems. Plant in full sun, it is frosty hardy and requires moderate watering.

TIP: Its neat compact growth makes it ideal for flower arranging, it takes well to trimming and forms a beautiful hedge.



Plant Trees & Shrubs with Vita Grow 2:3:2 (16) with high Phosphate and Calcium nutrient levels to develop and establish roots and provide energy and vigour to grow well.

- Feed Evergreen Trees and Shrubs with Vita Green 5:1:5 (16) at 100g per m² or 1ml per litre size container.
- Apply Talborne Vita Fruit & Flower 3:1:5 (18) at 100g per m² or 1ml per litre size container or Nourish liquid organic plant food 4:1:6 (11) Buds, Flowers & Fruit (5ml per L water foliar feed or 10ml per L water soil drench) to Flowering & Fruiting Trees and Shrubs.

This is just a small selection of the many beautiful shrubs that thrive in our gardens. With a little research, you can find the perfect plants to add colour, foliage and fragrance to your garden throughout the spring and summer months.

Tip for Combating Climate Change

As trees grow, they help to combat Climate Change by removing Carbon Dioxide from the air, storing Carbon in the trees and soil, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere.

The temperature difference between neighbourhoods with a heavy tree canopy and those with no trees can be as much as 4 to 5 degrees celcius cooler.



Spring & Summer Indoor Plants



Organic your Indoor Plants this Spring & Summer:

Growing indoor plants is a rewarding hobby that allows you to enjoy the beauty of plants year-round. By adopting organic practices, you can cultivate healthy, vibrant indoor plants without harmful chemicals. Here are some tips for an organic approach to growing your indoor plants during the spring and summer months.

Light and Temperature

- **Sunlight:** Most indoor plants require bright, indirect sunlight. Make sure to choose the right plant for the area or room of the house or office that you want to green up.
- **Temperature:** Maintain consistent temperatures between 18°C and 29°C. Avoid placing plants near heat sources or cold drafts. Certain plants prefer higher humidity levels so try grouping plants together, use a humidifier or place plants that like more humid conditions in a bathroom.

Soil and Containers

- **Containers:** Choose pots that are slightly larger than the plant's root ball. Ensure the pots have drainage holes to prevent waterlogging.
- **Soil:** Use a high-quality organic potting mix that is suited to the plant's requirements. Add Talborne certified organic earthworm castings to add structure and fertility to your potting mix and assist in water retention (Apply 1cm layer of earthworm castings to soil surface in the container).

Watering

- **Watering:** Water your plants deeply but less frequently to avoid overwatering (adjust watering for plant type). Allow the top few centimetres of soil to dry out before watering again. Empty the drainage tray.

Additional Tips



Repotting: Repot your plants when the roots become root-bound, look for signs like roots pushing out of the drainage holes, stunted growth or the plant getting too big for its container.

Pruning: Prune your plants from time to time to maintain their shape, remove dead leaves and encourage new growth.

Propagation: Propagate your favourite plants to share with friends, swap with other avid collectors and expand your personal collection.

By following the tips above, you will enjoy the satisfaction and added benefits of beautifying your home or office with healthy, vibrant plants.



Did You Know? Fun Facts About Indoor Plants



Air Purifiers: Indoor plants can help improve air quality by removing harmful toxins and pollutants.

Stress Relief: Having plants around can reduce stress and anxiety. The simple act of caring for a plant can provide a sense of calm and well-being.

Productivity Boosters: Studies have shown that having plants in the workplace can increase productivity and creativity. They can also help reduce absenteeism due to illness.

Natural Humidifiers: Plants release moisture into the air through a process called transpiration. This can help to increase humidity levels in your home, especially during dry seasons.

Plant Intelligence: While plants don't have brains in the same way animals do, they can respond to their environment. For example, some plants can detect changes in light, temperature, and even touch.

Living Filters: Plants can help to filter out dust and allergens from the air. This can be especially beneficial for people with allergies or respiratory problems.

Pet-Friendly Options: Not all plants are safe for pets. If you have furry friends, it's important to choose plants that are non-toxic to animals.



Fertilizing

- **Fertilizing:** Plants use up their nutrients available in pots quickly so it's important to replenish nutrients regularly. Feed your indoor plants with the Talborne Nourish liquid organic plant food range which is a balanced liquid organic plant food containing all the nutrients required for healthy growth. (Use 5ml Nourish per L water when foliar feeding or 10ml Nourish per L water when applying as a soil drench. Apply every 2 weeks or as per plants feeding requirements)
- Talborne Nourish organic plant food is 100% plant-based with no smelly odours so can be used indoors, outdoors or in high traffic areas like restaurants and offices.

Pests and Diseases

- **Pests:** Keep an eye out for common indoor plant pests like aphids, mealybugs, and spider mites. Use organic pest control methods, such as neem oil or insecticidal soap. Biogrow Certified Organic products offer safe, effective and environmentally friendly solutions.
- **Diseases:** Prevent fungal diseases by ensuring proper air circulation and avoiding overwatering. If you notice signs of disease, isolate the affected plant and treat it with the powerful anti-fungal duo of Biogrow Copper Soap and Biogrow Phyta.

Clean Leaves

- Wipe dust off leaves with a damp cloth to improve their ability to absorb light, keep them looking in tip-top shape and prevent pest and disease.



Cycads: Prehistoric Plants for Your Garden



Cycads, ancient plants that predate dinosaurs, offer a unique and relatively low-maintenance addition to your garden. These living fossils can thrive with minimal care, adding a touch of prehistoric charm to your outdoor space.

Key Care Considerations for Cycads

Location

- Cycads prefer full sun but can tolerate some afternoon shade. Protect them from strong winds and ensure they have ample space to grow.

Soil

- Well-draining soil is essential to prevent root rot. Talborne's range of Soil Conditioners (Fertilis and SoilCare organic earthworm castings) are ideal for providing a neutral pH environment that cycads prefer (pH between 5.5 and 7.0)



Watering

- * Water cycads deeply when the top few centimeters of soil dries out. Avoid frequent, shallow watering, as this can lead to root rot.

Fertilizing

- * Cycads are not heavy feeders. Plant them with Vita Grow 2:3:2 (16) and feed them twice a year with Talborne Vita Green 5:1:5 (16) granular slow-release fertilizer. If they are grown in healthy soil and get the little bit of nutrition they need, they will be more resistant to pest and disease attack.

Pests and Diseases

- Monitor your cycads for scale insects and fungal diseases, this will occur mostly in very dry or nutritionally stressed conditions. Address issues promptly with Biogrow Pyrol for Scale and Biogrow Copper Soap for fungal disease.

Additional Tips

Symbiotic Relationship

Cycads often have a symbiotic relationship with cyanobacteria, which fix atmospheric nitrogen. This means they require less fertilizer than other plants.

Patience

Cycads are slow-growing plants, so be patient as they develop and they will reward you with their beautiful structures and sculptural forms.



Organic Orchid Care

Orchids are known for their beautiful, exotic blooms, but they can be a bit finicky about their care. However, with the right knowledge and attention, you can successfully grow these stunning plants.

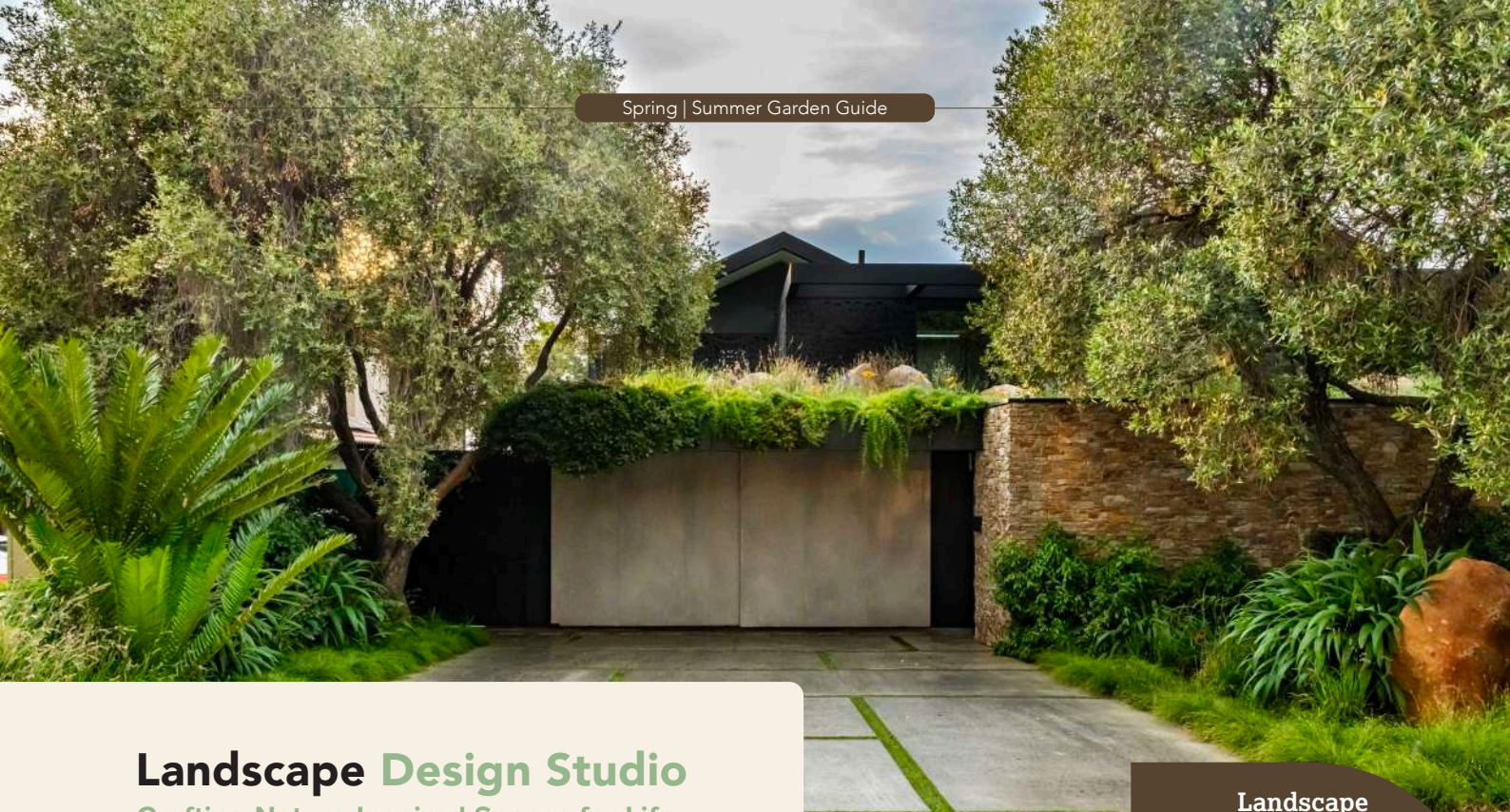


Orchids require specific conditions to thrive:

- **Light:** Most orchids prefer bright, indirect light. Avoid direct sunlight, as it can burn the leaves.
- **Humidity:** Orchids love humidity. Aim for 50-80% humidity. You can increase humidity by misting, using a humidifier, or placing orchids on a pebble tray filled with water.
- **Watering:** Water thoroughly but allow the potting medium to dry slightly between waterings. Overwatering is a common cause of orchid death.
- **Warm temperatures:** Most orchids prefer warm temperatures during the day and slightly cooler temperatures at night. Avoid temperature extremes with sudden temperature changes which can stress your orchid.
- **Potting Medium:** Use a well-draining potting mix specifically designed for orchids.
- **Fertilizer:** Use a balanced liquid plant food - Nourish Buds, Flowers and Fruit 4:1:6 (11), apply every 2 weeks during the growing season as a foliar feed at 5ml per L water
- **Pests:** Watch for common orchid pests like aphids, mealybugs, and scale. Treat them promptly with Biogrow Bioneem or Biogrow Neudosan as a preventative measure.
- **Diseases:** Avoid overwatering to prevent fungal diseases. If you notice signs of disease, isolate the affected plant and treat it with Biogrow Copper Soap fungicide. Be sure not to underwater either.



Remember: Different orchid species have slightly different care requirements. It's essential to research the specific needs of your orchid to provide optimal care.



Landscape Design Studio

Crafting Nature-Inspired Spaces for Life.

Landscape Design Tip



Increases curb appeal and welcoming first impression

Potential property value increase (average range of 10-15%)

Focus: Creating healthy, environmentally friendly landscapes that enhance urban living and promote biodiversity.

Services: Landscape Design, Kids Adventure and Playscapes and Project Facilitation.

Design Philosophy: Combining aesthetic appeal with ecological sustainability for a harmonious urban environment.



Benefits of a well-designed Landscape

A well-designed landscape acts as a refuge, offering a space to unwind, uplift one's mood, and potentially boosting cognitive abilities. This is especially crucial in today's fast-paced world where stress, health (both physical and mental health) concerns are on the rise.

Imagine your own complete garden makeover or an upgrade to a specific area.

Enquire about our design services and let us bring your vision to life.

Explore our Design Portfolio here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v0B8eAU9O6RgVXSEYaKV7_L9FpB-hQ9T/view

Connect with Grant: grant@talborne.co.za

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