

JANUARY

Mid- Summer

Feed/ Maintain: use organic fertilisers or compost

- Strong growing creepers like *Senecio tamoides* (Canary Creeper), *Thunbergia alata* (Black-eyed Susan), and groundcovers like *Gazania rigens*, *Felicia amelloides* and *Geranium incanum*.
- Container and basket plants.
- Feed flowering shrubs and perennials.
- Feed autumn- flowering shrubs now to ensure a colourful display in autumn.
- Mulch all beds to retain moisture and protect against the summer heat.



Prune/ Trim/ Deadhead: leave some flowers to set seed

- Divide over-grown Arum lilies, lightly trim *Plectranthus zuluensis*.
- Trim or prune early summer- flowering shrubs, but take care not to disturb wildlife.
- Cut up trees and shrubs as needed to improve air-circulation in this damp heat.
- Thin out around perennials and soft shrubs if showing signs of fungal disease and stem rot.
- Dead-head groundcovers and perennials, like *Pelargonium tongaense*, to keep the plants energies focused on producing further flowers. Allow some flowers to set seed to provide food, hide-aways, and to be used for nesting materials.

Propagate / Plant / Remove:

- Plant *Amaryllis belladonna*.
- It is still possible to take stem cuttings of succulents through the summer months.
- Weeds are vigorous now so remove while still small before they set seed.
- Collect the bright ripe-red *Clivia* seeds and tuck into seeding trays while fresh.
- The summer rainfall season is the perfect time to plant trees and shrubs.



Pests and Diseases: our website has earth-friendly remedies to try

- The Amaryllis lilyborer is active on *Clivia*, *Crinum*, *Haemanthus* and *Agapanthus*.
- Look for plants suffering from fungal diseases and rotting leaves and stems: cut away some undergrowth and thin out the plants to improve air circulation.
- Watch *Gerbera jamesonii* (Barbeton Daisy) and *Geranium/ Pelargonium* species for powdery mildew, rust and black spot. See above point to improve/prevent problems.

WHAT'S IN FLOWER

Gazania species (1)
Felicia amelloides
Aloe cooperi
Bulbine frutescens
Agapanthus praecox
Polygala fruticosa

Bauhinia species
Grewia occidentalis
Crinum moorei (2)
Indigofera jucunda
Cyanotis speciosa (3)
Tinnea barbata

Erythrina humeana
Eucomis autumnalis
Asystasia gangetica
Agapanthus africanus
Aptenia cordifolium
Hypoxis hemerocallidea (4)

Feed/ Maintain: use organic fertilisers or compost

- Renew mulches on all beds to protect from heavy rains if not done in January.
- Heavy rains can leach nutrients out of the soils so double up on the nutrient-rich compost layer.
- Feed the compost heap with your cuttings.
- Feed *Plectranthus* spp. and *Hypoestes aristata* (Ribbon bush) with compost or organic fertilisers to ensure a good display in autumn.
- If heavy rains have compacted soils, loosen them (but do not turn over) and cover with a thick mulch layer.



Prune/ Trim/ Deadhead: leave some flowers to set seed

- Remove some dead flowering heads of *Agapanthus*. Keep some for wildlife use.
- Small shrubs can be trimmed after flowering, as long as wildlife will not be disturbed
- Dead-head groundcovers and perennials, trim *Barleria repens*, cut back *Helichrysum splendidum* and *Jasminum multipartitum* after flowering. Allow a few flowers to seed to provide food and nesting materials.
- Water feature/wetland/pond. Thin out reeds and split over-grown water-lilies.
- Keep leaves on the *Eucomis* and other summer bulbs to build up food for the next season

Propagate / Plant / Remove:

- Collect seeds of *Agapanthus* and sow immediately - the fresher the better the results.
- Cut back *Pelargoniums* and *Euryops* spp. before they get too woody and take slips of *Plectranthus* and soft-wood cuttings of *Osteospermum*, *Dimorphotheca*, *Felicias*, *Geraniums*, *Pelargoniums* and *Euryops*.
- Prepare for winter: Plant natural food plants like *Aloes*, *Leonotus* and *Kniphofia*.



Pests and Diseases: our website has earth-friendly remedies to try

- *Pelargoniums* are still susceptible to fungal diseases. Water at root level and earlier in the day so leaves to dry out before evening.
- Up-end old pots and other containers that collect water where mosquitoes from laying eggs. Mozzies can also be found in the large leaves of species like *Strelitzia* - clear them out by spraying a strong jet of water on the plants
- Hawk- moth caterpillars are around. Look out for them and watch their fascinating lifecycles rather than killing them off - they are important pollinators

WHAT'S IN FLOWER

Acacia karroo	Agapanthus species	Burchellia bubalina
Erythrina humeana	Asystasia gangetica	Plumbago auriculata (4)
Hoslundia opposita	Aptenia cordifolium (3)	Felicia amelloides (1)
Karomia speciosa	Gazania rigens	Bulbine abyssinica
Plectranthus zuluensis	Murdannia simplex	Arctotheca calendula
Xylothea kraussiana	Scadoxus 'Katharinae' (2)	Aloe cooperi

MARCH

Autumn begins

Feed/ Maintain: use organic fertilisers or compost

- Feed winter-flowering plants: aloes, succulents etc.
- Order your winter-flowering bulbs now and store in a cool, dark place until planting time: *Babianas*, *Tritonia*, *Ixias*, *Lachenalias*, *Eucomis autumnnalis*.
- Lay a thick layer of compost on your beds as a natural food and mulch. Do not dig it in - simply place on top of the soils and let the earthworms and other insects do the work.
- Keep watering baskets and containers.



Prune/ Trim/ Deadhead: leave some flowers to set seed

- As leaves fall, bag them to make leaf compost or place under shrubs and on beds as a natural mulch.
- Split over-grown perennials - *Agapanthus*, *Dietes*, *Tulbaghia* and summer-flowering *Kniphofia*. Do not split into too small clumps as they will take too long to flower.
- Prune mid- to late summer-flowering shrubs now before winter and trim evergreens. Be aware of insects and other wildlife hiding in the foliage. Only trim if essential
- Dead-head *Barleria albostelata* and back old flowering stems of *Scabiosa* spp.
- If needed, trees and shrubs can be transplanted now as the heat dissipates.
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Propagate / Plant / Remove:

- Take cuttings of *Mackaya bella*.
- Sow Namaqualand daisies and *Nemesias* now.
- Collect seed of *Agapanthus*.
- You can transplant trees and shrubs on cooler days.



Pests and Diseases: our website has earth-friendly remedies to try

Look out for the following:

- Thrips on bulbous plants
- Mildew during this hot weather on a number of perennials and small shrubs
- Aphids, often accompanied by ants, on plants like *Scabiosa*.



WHAT'S IN FLOWER

Crocsmia aurea (4)
Strelitzia reginae
Metarungia longistrobus
Anisodontea scabrosa
Gerbera jamesonii
Dombeya burgessiae (1)

Plumbago auriculata
Tulbaghia violacea (2)
Crinum moorei
Bauhinia tomentosa
Nuxia floribunda
Dimorphotheca jucunda

Polygala myrtifolia
Cyperus albostriatus
Kniphofia species (3)
Nerine angustifolia
Duvernoia ackonitiflora
Dyschorista rogersii

Feed/ Maintain: use organic fertilisers or compost

- Feed Aloes to ensure a good winter show.
- Mulch beds and let autumn leaves stay where they fall. Leaf mulch is a natural food and soil protector.
- Give a general last feed before winter.
- Feed containers and baskets and water regularly.



Prune/ Trim/ Deadhead: leave some flowers to set seed

- There is still time to split summer-flowering perennials like *Agapanthus*, *Dietes* and *Kniphofia*. Discard older leaves and the central growth section if it looks tired and only plant the outer actively growing sections of the plant.
- Replace shrubs that are struggling with strong growing younger specimens.

Propagate / Plant / Remove:

- Autumn is the right time to plant winter- and spring- flowering bulbs: *Freesia*, *Babiana*, *Sparaxis*, *Lachenalia* and *Tritonis* for example.
- Last chance to sow annuals for spring: Namaqualand daisies, *Arctotis* and *Nemesias*. Sprinkle them in- situ.
- In the hotter parts of the country, April is a good time to plant trees and shrubs after the heat of February/ March has dissipated.
- Take hardwood cuttings now - about 20cm in length.



Pests and Diseases: our website has earth-friendly remedies to try

- The lilyborer is still active. Control by hand or, if infestation is heavy, use Margaret Roberts Biological Caterpillar Insecticide.
- Caterpillars and cutworms are around now. They are essential components of their habitat so, unless they are decimating your plants, leave as food for their natural predators. If you do have an infestation, read the article on natural pest remedies and plant species that will attract these natural predators.
- Mole rats will be around in time for the bulb season so plant bulbs in wire/ plastic baskets as a protection

WHAT'S IN FLOWER

Aloe pruinosa
 Tecoma capensis
 Plectranthus saccatus(3)
 Crassula capitella
 Carissa macrocarpa
 Halleria lucida

Pappea capensis
 Dombeya tiliacea
 Hypoestes aristata (1)
 Polygala species
 Euryops pectinatus
 Aristida junciformis

Barleria obtusa
 Barleria repens (4)
 Pelargonium tongaense(2)
 Aloe tenuior
 Hibiscus calyphyllus
 Metarungia longistrobus

Feed/ Maintain: use organic fertilisers or compost

- Feed and water winter- and spring- flowering bulbs. As the bulbs shoot they need watering more frequently, about once a week in the summer rainfall areas. Use grey water or water stored in tanks during the rains.
- Cover ponds to stop too many autumn leaves from falling in.
- In frosty areas lay your mulch thickly and water at root level. Cover tender plants.
- This is the start of the dry period in the summer rainfall regions. Watch for water stress



Prune/ Trim/ Deadhead: leave some flowers to set seed

- In the warmer regions prune back *Plectranthus* spp. quite hard.
- Remove the old foliage of *Pelargoniums*.
- Cut down flowering stems of *Strelitzia* as they finish flowering to continue the flowering season. Otherwise leave on to attract insects and birds.
- Regularly dead-head all groundcovers and perennials but leave a few to set seed for wildlife food and nesting material.
- There is still time to prune summer-flowering shrubs in the warmer regions if essential. Be careful of disturbing wildlife.
- Prune *Aloe tenuior*, *Anisodonteia scabrosa* and *Barleria obtusa*

Propagate / Plant / Remove:

- Take hardwood cuttings of shrubs and use prunings to propagate *Plectranthus*.
- Plant up baskets of indigenous colour: *Dimorphotheca*, *Gazania*, *Felicia*, *Senecio*, *Pelargoniums*, *Diascias* and *Helichrysum* - summer rainfall regions should plant water-wise species as we head into the long dry period.



Pests and Diseases:

Be on the look out for:

- Snails on *Clivia* and other soft leaved perennials
- Borere beetles will be active on fig trees
- Aphids on new growth

WHAT'S IN FLOWER

Protea cynaroides (3)
Croton gratissimus
Leonotis leonurus (1)
Aloe arborescens (4)
Tephrosia grandiflora
Syncolostemon species

Othonna carnososa
Chlorophytum saundersiae
Crassula alba
Crassula capitella
Senecio speciosus
Dimorphotheca species

Halleria lucida
Bulbine narcissifolia
Dombeya burgessiae
Aloe tenuior (2)
Plectranthus fruticosus
Aristida junciformis

JUNE

Winter begins

Feed/ Maintain: use organic fertilisers or compost

- In frosty gardens water frosted plants before the sun hits them to prevent damage.
- Gardeners in summer rainfall regions will need to water plants originating from winter rainfall regions.
- Keep beds well mulched and you will see the benefits as the dry season lengthens in much of the country.
- Feed bulbs when buds appear and keep them well watered.
- In warmer areas watch pots for water stress as days can still be hot.



Prune/ Trim/ Deadhead: leave some flowers to set seed

- Re-shape creepers this month (you to see the structure more easily as the foliage thins out), keep a section untouched for wildlife protection through winter.
- Keep hollow and/or dead branches on trees and large shrubs as nesting sites for many birds and will bring in the insects, favoured food for many species.
- Remove diseased wood only - but do not place on the compost heap.
- A good time to prune late summer and autumn flowering shrubs. *Barleria obtusa*, *Hypoestes aristata* and *Plectranthus* species.
- Thinning foliage allows you to see how much protective foliage is available for wildlife to over-winter. Do you need to plant more evergreens?



Propagate / Plant / Remove:

- This is a good time to transplant larger trees and shrubs: deciduous species transplant more easily now.
- Take hardwood cuttings of shrubs.
- Spring is the best time to take stem cuttings of succulents as their dormant period ends. Remember to let the tips dry before pushing into the soil.



Pests and Diseases:

Look out for:

- Aphids on bulbous plants
- Snails on Agapanthus and Clivia - don't poison, merely lift by hand and place where predators can get to them



WHAT'S IN FLOWER

Aloe ferox
 Aloe vanbalenii
 Clivia nobilis
 Aloe marlothii (4)
 Kniphofia praecox
 Bulbine natalensis

Crassula ovata
 Senecio tamoides
 Crotalaria capensis
 Haemanthus albiflos (2)
 Pelargonium reniforme
 Gerbera ambigua

Bauhinia tomentosa (3)
 Grewia occidentalis (1)
 Ocimum labiatum
 Indigofera jucunda
 Polygala virgata
 Tinnea barbata

Feed/ Maintain: use organic fertilisers or compost

- Feed spring- flowering bulbs.
- If not already done, top up the mulch layers to keep soil temperatures relatively constant and to protect soils being frosted in cold regions.
- Western Cape gardens: mulch to retain winter rains for the hot summer months and to protect soils from heavy rains. A thick compost layer also provides nutrients.
- Stake tender plants and structures (trellises) against the coming winds.
- Water the newly emerging seedlings of Namaqualand daisies if rain is absent.



Prune/ Trim/ Deadhead: leave some flowers to set seed

- In frost-free regions prune late summer- flowering shrubs and climbers like *Clematis brachiata* (Traveller's Joy), *Barleria*, *Plectranthus* and *Hypoestes*. Watch for wildlife.
- Be careful not to trim deciduous spring- flowering plants as you will then be cutting off the wood that produces the new buds.
- Collect leaves and small sticks shed by trees and shrubs: tuck under shrubs and make build insect homes in out-of-the-way spots. This will also encourage decomposers into your garden, vital organisms in the life-cycles of eco-systems.
- Use some fallens sticks as stakes for tender plants and in the vegetable garden.

Propagate / Plant / Remove:

- This is a good time to transplant trees and shrubs; water well in summer rainfall regions for a couple of months and remove some top leafy growth on evergreens to prevent transplant stress.



Pests and Diseases: our website has earth-friendly remedies to try

- Borer beetles may be found on Fig trees at this time - keep a look out for tell-tale signs of sawdust on branches.
- Snails will hide among the leaves of *Clivia* and *Agapanthus*. Natural predators should take care of them. If to much of a problem, pick off by hand and place in the compost heap or on bird feeders for predators to enjoy.

WHAT'S IN FLOWER

Crassula multicava
Sutherlandia frutescens
Aloe maculata (1)
Protea cynaroides
Buddleja salvifolia
Diospyros whyteana

Strelitzia reginae
Tetradenia riparia (2)
Ehritia rigida
Bulbine frutescens
Syncolostemon obermeyerae
Coleonema species (4)

Arctotis fastuosa
Dimorphotheca sinuata
Nemesia hybrids
Dorotheanthus species
Gazania species
Calodendrum capense (3)

AUGUST

Winter's end

Feed/ Maintain: use organic fertilisers or compost

- Keep feeding winter- and spring- flowering bulbs until their leaves begin to yellow.
- Western Cape: plants from the summer rainfall regions need to be watered now.
- Start fertilising your container plants and do so regularly throughout the summer. Liquid fertilisers like worm leachate work well. Always apply to damp soils.
- Spring growth often begins towards the end of the month - a general organic feed can be given to all trees and shrubs.



Prune/ Trim/ Deadhead: leave some flowers to set seed

- Prune *Leonotus leonurus* hard to prevent them being too woody next season.
- Lightly trim creepers like *Senecio macroglossus* and winter- flowering perennials if not already done.
- Prune *Hypericum revolutum* and *Plectranthus* species - mimicking natural browsers.
- When dead-heading, allow some flowers to set seed for wildlife food and to be used as nesting materials.
- Prune the King Protea, *Protea cynaroides* - cut flowering branches right back.
- Brown leaves on perennials, like *Aristea ecklonii*, can be cut back as winter ends.
- Prune Plumbago, Tecoma and Salvia species at month's end. Watch for wildlife
- A good time to divide over-crowded perennials as many begin their new growth

Propagate / Plant / Remove:

- Collect seeds of Aloes, Kniphofia, Felicia and Kleinia fulgens
- Take cuttings of the new growth appearing now on Geraniums
- Ferns can be repotted now as new growth begins
- Summer bulbs can be planted now
- It's a good time to plant hedges in summer rainfall regions



Pests and Diseases: our website has earth-friendly remedies to try

Look out for:

- Mealy bugs and aphids will be on the look out for new growth
- Slugs and snails on Clivia

WHAT'S IN FLOWER

Aloe maculata
 Chasmanthe floribunda
 Cotyledon orbiculata
 Veltheimia bracheata
 Hypoxis species
 Diospyros whyteana

Dodoneaea angustifolia
 Leucospermum species
 Polygala virgata (2)
 Karomia speciosa
 Hypericum revolutum (1)
 Aristea ecklonii

Bulbine capitata
 Diascia spp. (4)
 Dimorphotheca species (3)
 Euryops virgineus
 Othonna carnosa
 Tetradenia riparia

SEPTEMBER

Spring begins

Feed/ Maintain: use organic fertilisers or compost

- Give a general feed as the growing season begins.
- Pinch out the growing tips of *Pelargoniums*, daisy bushes and other soft shrubs to encourage a bushier growth.
- Feed groundcovers as they begin their fast growing season.
- Feed Namaqualand daisies which will burst into bloom this month.
- If rains are late or too intermittent water the autumn and winter bulbs as they die off to ensure they build up as much food as possible for the next flowering season.



Prune/ Trim/ Deadhead: leave some flowers to set seed

- Lift and divide crowded perennials - split deciduous *Agapanthus* now.
- Prune shrubs and climbers that completed their flowering season in winter. Be careful not to disturb insects, nesting birds and other wildlife.
- Re-pot water lilies, dwarf Cyperus (*Cyperus prolifer*) and *Nymphoides thunbergia*.
- As winter ends, cut back scrappy *Chlorophytum saundersiae* (Weeping Anthirricum).
- In frosty areas prune off leaves and stems frosted through winter.
- Cut back *Dissotis canescens* to ground level and *Juncus effuses* if frost damaged
- Grasses need to be pruned hard in place of the natural fire regime - cut back smaller sections each year retaining small patches for the wildlife.

Propagate / Plant / Remove:

- Collect seed of Namaqualand daisies as the flowers die off, as well as *Ursinia* and *Nemesia*, commonly found alongside them.
- Plant out summer- flowering bulbs.
- Smother newly emerging weeds with a thick layer of mulch to save on the hard work of removing them.



Pests and Diseases: our website has earth-friendly remedies to try

Look out for:

- Rust on *Geraniums/ Pelargoniums* and *Aloes*.
- Slugs and snails will be out again - do you have plants to attract their predators?
- Thrips may be seen on the *Gladiolus* family.
- Red spider mite on the *Halleria lucida*.
- Mould on *Dierama* spp.

WHAT'S IN FLOWER

Osteospermum jucunda

Vygie species

Delosperma species

Chlorophytum saundersiae

Ochna serrulata

Salvia africana-lutea (3)

Burchellia bubalina

Mackaya bella

Watsonia spp. (2)

Rothmannia globosa (1)

Ptaeroxylon obliquum (4)

Psychotria capensis

Namaqualand daisies

Merwillia plumbea

Pelargonium peltatum

Zantheschia aethiopica

Podalyria spp.

Dombeya rotundifolia

OCTOBER

Mid- Spring

Feed/ Maintain: use organic fertilisers or compost

- Feed all groundcovers and perennials.
- After the dry winter, give all shrubs a deep watering down to root level if spring rains are late.
- In winter rainfall gardens, summer rainfall species will need watering.
- Fertilise cycads as new growth starts.
- Feed container plants.



Prune/ Trim/ Deadhead: leave some flowers to set seed

- Prune climbers as they finish flowering.
- Your grassland patch can still be slashed now if not done last month.
- Old leaves on bulbs can still be retained to draw in the food.
- If you haven't divided perennials yet, do so, then fertilise and water it in.
- Dead-head and prune: groundcovers and perennials but allow some to set seed for food, and to be used as nesting material.
- Trim winter-and spring- flowering shrubs: *Pycnostachys*, *Salvia*, *Euryops*, *Felicia*, *Gerbera*, *Pelargoniums*, *Proteas*, Pincushion as flowering ends. Be careful not to disturb insects, nesting birds and other wildlife.
- Split *Kniphofia praecox* if too overcrowded to improve flowering.

Propagate / Plant / Remove:

- Sow seed collected through autumn and winter.
- Plant out summer bulbs - *Galtonia*, *Crocsmia*, *Sandersonia aurantiaca*, *Eucomis* and Arum lilies, *Gladioli*, *Merwillia plumbea* and *Watsonia* spp.
- Take softwood cuttings of *Pelargoniums*.
- A good time to plant hedges where spring and summer rains are plentiful.
- A good time to plant perennials - *Gazania*, *Dimorphotheca*, *Pelargonium*, *Agapanthus* and *Diascia* as well as our colourful vygies.



Pests and Diseases: our website has earth-friendly remedies to try

- Spring rains bring out the slugs and snails - remove by hand and place on a bird table as a snack.
- Lilyborer is active - keep a watch on *Crinum*s, *Clivia*, *Agapanthus*, *Haemanthus* and *Nerines*.
- Rust on *Geranium*s

WHAT'S IN FLOWER

Erythrina species
 Clivia miniata
 Schotia brachypetala
 Carissa bispinosa (3)
 Bulbine abyssinica
 Thunbergia atriplicifolia(2)

Dierama species (1)
 Dietes bicolor
 Watsonia species
 Grewia occidentalis
 Dovyalis caffra
 Pavonia praemorsa

Anisodonteia scabrosa
 Freylinia tropica
 Ochna serrulata
 Buddleja saligna
 Bulbine frutescens
 Scabiosa spp. (4)

NOVEMBER

Spring's end

Feed/ Maintain: use organic fertilisers or compost

- A good time for a general feed with the summer rains soaking the gardens.
- Summer- flowering bulbs should be watered at least once a week unless rains are good.
- Keep watering yellowing bulb leaves as they store food for next season.
- Mulch beds: Western Cape gardens in particular could do with a generous 10 cm layer during the dry season. This will reduce the amount of watering needed.



Prune/ Trim/ Deadhead: leave some flowers to set seed

- Dead-head groundcovers like *Gazania*, *Felicia*, *Geranium incanum*, *Scabiosa* - to keep them flowering and to prevent dead areas developing in the centre of the plants.
- Spring- flowering shrubs as they finish flowering.
- Prune *Pelargonium peltatum*, *Protea* spp., Pincushions and *Euryops* once flowering is complete.

Propagate / Plant / Remove:

- Sow seeds - look for the Kirstenbosch seed range at your local nursery.
- Order seed from The Seed Room at Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens - look on-line for their very extensive catalogue.
- This is the last month in which to plant out summer- flowering bulbs.



Pests and Diseases: our website has earth-friendly remedies to try

Look out for:

- The Amaryllis lilyborer is active on *Clivia*, *Crinum*, *Haemanthus* and *Agapanthus*.
- Look out for caterpillars on the Arums this month.
- Spider mites are around - don't forget to look on the underside of leaves
- Thrips on *Gladioli*.
- Slugs and snails on newly emerged bulbs.

WHAT'S IN FLOWER

Barleria albostelata
Bauhinia natalensis
Gardenia thunbergia
Jasminum multipartitum
Lobostemon fruticosus
Rhamnus prinoides

Aristea ecklonii (1)
Strophanthus speciosus
Thunbergia natalensis
Rhigozum obovatum
Turraea floribunda
Leucospermum spp. (3)

Ocimum labiatum (4)
Clerodendrum glabrum
Helichrysum splendidum
Xylothea kraussiana (3)
Delosperma herbeum
Scabiosa africana

DECEMBER

Summer begins

Feed/ Maintain: use organic fertilisers or compost

- Feed strong growing groundcovers like *Gazania* and *Aptenia*.
- Feed all flowering plants with an organic fertiliser or cover with a thick compost layer.
- Feed containers and hanging baskets.
- Summer rainfall gardens receiving good rains will need to feed all plants regularly as heavy and continuous rains can leach out vital nutrients.
- Renew mulch on all beds - the hottest months are around the corner.



Prune/ Trim/ Deadhead: leave some flowers to set seed

- Still time to prune *Leonotus leonurus* (Wild dagga).
- Dead head groundcovers and perennials regularly.
- Cut off dead leaves on *Dierama*, *Watsonia* and *Crinum* if completely yellowed.
- Trim spring- flowering shrubs.
- Cut up trees and shrubs as needed to improve air-circulation in this damp heat. Thin out around perennials and soft shrubs if showing signs of fungal disease and stem rot - *Gazanias* in particular may suffer this month. Ensure soils drain well.
- Dead-head groundcovers and perennials to produce further flowers, but allow some to set seed for food, and to be used as nesting materials.



Propagate / Plant / Remove:

- Collect seed of *Gerbera* and *Felicia* spp.
- Still time to plant *Gladioli* for extended colour; Plant *Nerines* for autumn flowers.
- Take semi-hardwood cuttings of *Pelargoniums* and *Hypericum* spp.
- Collect the plump seed of *Crinum* species, scrape off the outer coating and plant immediately but only partially bury them.



Pests and Diseases: our website has earth-friendly remedies to try

- The Amaryllis lilyborer is active on *Clivia*, *Crinum*, *Haemanthus* and *Agapanthus* spp.
- Look for plants suffering from fungal diseases and rotting leaves and stems: cut away some undergrowth and thin out the plants to improve air circulation.
- Look for outbreaks of red spider mite, whitefly and rust.



WHAT'S IN FLOWER

Aptenia cordifolia
Bulbine frutescens (3)
Arum lilies
Bergeranthus scapiger (1)
Tinnea barbata
Pavetta lanceolata

Leucospermum cordifolium
Indigofera jucunda
Rotheca myricoides
Eucomis autumnalis
Helichrysum cymosum
Plectranthus zuluensis

Gazania krebsiana
Chlorophytum saundersiae
Albuca nelsonii (2)
Syncolostemon transvaalensis
Pavetta lanceolata
Turraea obtusifolia (3)