



# All Hands On

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## PROPERTY GROUP

### Get ready for Spring: Gardening Tips and Ideas

#### Make Grass Greener

To get your grass going, get out the garden fork and aerate your lawn. In early spring, apply a weed killer to remove broadleaf weeds and those pesky bindii. Follow up a few weeks later with lawn fertiliser to keep the grass growing strong and prevent new weeds.

If you have some bare patches or want to start a whole new lawn from scratch, now is the time to prepare the lawn to grow grass from seed. When the soil warms up, you'll be able to establish your grass before the heat of summer hits.

#### Trim and Tidy

Prune trees and shrubs to remove any withered winter leaves. Trim your hedges to encourage new growth. If you haven't done it already, summer flowering shrubs like hibiscus and hydrangea should be trimmed now so all their energy goes into producing beautiful blooms. Leave it any later and you risk cutting off the buds.

#### Time to Plant

Spring is the perfect time to plant just about anything. The soil moisture is still high and plants can become established before the heatwave hits. To add organic matter and nitrogen to your veggie patch, consider a green manure crop. Once it starts shooting, dig it back into the soil for a naturally prepared bed.

#### Fertilise

Before the growing season gets into full swing, just about everything will appreciate a good dose of fertiliser. Blood and bone and dynamic lifter are perfect for Australian natives. Just throw a handful over every four square metres. Dig compost and manure through the veggie patch and soluble fertilisers to any veggies that you already have planted. Potted plants will love liquid fertiliser for a quick boost and a dose of slow release fertiliser to keep

them going. Use specialist fertilisers for roses, citrus and orchids as they contain the particular nutrients these plants need.

### **Watch out for Pests**

As the weather warms up, aphids become active in the veggie patch or on the new growth of roses. Psyllids can also appear on the new growth of Lilly Pillies and need to be controlled to prevent them spreading. Use a garden insecticide to keep them in check.

### **Get everything you need for your garden**

For all your spring gardening needs, head to your local garden centre to have a look at its range of plants, garden tools and watering accessories.