



Gardening With Shannon

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Summer Gardening

There's nothing like a Christmas break after a hectic, busy year, relaxing walks along the beach, fishing, lots of delicious BBQs and spending time with friends. It only takes a few weeks of enjoyment to help rejuvenate us and help us start the year with a new skip in our step.



It's a New Year, a time for new beginnings, new inspiration and new goals. So maybe on your 'New Year's To Do List' is to get your garden done this year?

January is the month when most gardens are likely to experience water stress. It is important you keep up the watering and mulch gardens to

retain the water; as a result plants will put on a lot of growth. It is also the perfect time to start planning for your outdoor abode. It's time to start asking yourself, how do I want to use my garden space? Do I want to use it as an entertaining outdoor paradise, a mass of different plants to sit and enjoy, a large park-like sweeping lawn, or simply to create a quiet peaceful getaway? Lots of planning will help you create not only a beautiful garden to look at but also a practical and functional outdoor living space, an extension to your home. Why not utilize your outdoor space?

Remember the weather is on your side if you want to get all the hard-scaping things done - now's the time. These are the bones and structure to the garden, things like: driveways, paving, decking, fencing, pathways and retaining walls. It's sensible to get these in first while the weather is great before proceeding on to planting and new lawns, which are best installed in autumn. This month is all about lots of planning, so get all your ideas down on paper and start your New Year project.

It's Summer so don't forget to water!

- If you want your garden to grow at a healthy rate the plants need access to sufficient moisture and nutrients from the soil.
- Water your garden near dusk and when it isn't windy. This ensures the water has time to soak into the soil before it evaporates.
- Remember that different soils and plants have different watering needs.
- A general rule is, if there is no rain, garden plants require a good watering twice a week.

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN:

- Avoid cutting lawns too closely; leaving some length will prevent the lawn from drying out.
- Plant the following vegetables: cabbage, cauliflower, silver beet and spinach.
- Harvest cucumbers and courgettes. Courgettes grow quickly so pick regularly for continuous cropping.
- Garlic is ready to harvest now. Dig up and leave to dry before storing.
- Peaches, nectarines and kiwifruit will be ready for summer pruning.
- Plant marigolds, petunias, asters, zinnias and salvia.
- Continue deadheading plants that have finished flowering. Avoid overhead watering of flowers as this can cause flowers to rot.



The team at Paradise Landscapes hope you had a lovely Christmas and wish you all the best for the coming year.

Happy Gardening, Shannon

GARDENS WITH A WOW FACTOR!

From garden design, plantings, new lawns, garden edging, driveways, retaining walls, gazebos, pool side gardens, pathways and patio areas we do it all.

Are you trying to find **inspiration** for your new garden but can't find it? **No problem** we can help, just simply **call** our friendly team on **027 531 6399**

*Oh and don't forget to visit our website
www.paradiselandscapes.co.nz*