

AUTUMN

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SAMPLE

WHAT TO DO IN THE GARDEN

The weather might be cooling, but there's still plenty of things to do in the garden. Autumn is the second major planting period of the year. Seeds planted now will be harvested during spring and summer. Here are some tips on garden tasks to do throughout the Autumn months.



Composting

After the highly productive spring and summer seasons, your garden will need a good feed to ensure continued productivity. Organic compost and manure are the best soil feeders. To

make feeding the garden fun, children can help create simple organic compost and worm farms to prepare nutrients for using in the garden.

To keep the compost cooking sweetly, mix leaves and garden waste with kitchen scraps and throw in some chicken manure. This combination of materials — carbon, nitrogen and activator — keeps compost balanced.



TOP TIP

Start composting straight away, before you plant your veggie garden, and you'll have a great start for your garden beds.



Worm farming

If you have a worm farm, check that your worms haven't perished in the summer heat. If, on the other hand, your wriggly population has boomed, consider sharing some worms with your friends. Use the worm castings as fertiliser or make the perfect plant tonic — worm juice.





Seed saving

Autumn is a great season for seed saving. When plants such as parsley and silverbeet have gone to seed, allow the seeds to dry out, then harvest and store them in homemade labelled packets for future planting.



Make red chilli strings

The end of summer often sees a glut of chillies, with no immediate way of using them. A fun weekend activity is to make chilli strings – knot one end of a length of thread, thread the other end through a needle and push the needle through your freshly harvested red chillies. Knot at the other end and hang them somewhere dry and well-ventilated. Wait for the chillies to dry completely, and keep them on hand to add some heat to your Autumn dishes!



Decorating

Autumn is a great time of year to beautify your garden. Kids can have fun making signs using recycled materials such as old wooden spoons, fence palings, pots and wire. Construct potato growing frames with a cylinder of chicken wire – you need a closed, dark space lower down but you can decorate the circular wire frames in the upper section. Scarecrows are also fun and easy to make, using a couple of tomato stakes, some straw and a few old clothes.



**Autumn garden
checklist**

- ☐ Remove summer crops once they have finished producing
- ☐ Weed and tidy the garden
- ☐ Refresh soil by adding compost
- ☐ Plant and harvest
- ☐ Liquid-feed citrus trees
- ☐ Make compost for spring application

SAMPLE

MY AUTUMN PLANTINGS

What I planted

Date

Notes

What I planted

Date

Notes

SAMPLE