

# Your October Gardening Guide

October is a fantastic time of year for gardening! The days are starting to warm up, the daylight hours are slowly becoming longer, and we are definitely feeling the urge to get out in the fresh air after being cooped up inside through winter.

Here are the top tasks to tackle through October.



## Sow Seeds & Plant Seedlings

Sowing seeds is pretty easy, all the instructions are on the packet! Make sure you follow these, and choose seeds that are going to grow at this time of the year. If you sow winter-loving crops now, they aren't going to grow!

### Here are some seeds you can sow now;

Carrot, lettuce, beetroot, peas, coriander, silverbeet, radishes, capsicum and courgette. For more options, head to your local garden centre and grab some seed packs, or seedlings if you are ready for them now! There will be a wide range of seedlings available for you to get started with planting now.



## Lawn Care

Now is the perfect time to give your lawns some TLC. For existing lawns you will need to add some much needed fertiliser – especially if you haven't done it for a while. It is also a great time to sow new lawns. Check out our guide for more information.

<http://www.intelligro.co.nz/image/data/PDF/IG-LawnBrochure-Feb16-web.pdf>

<http://www.intelligro.co.nz/25kg-lawn-fertiliser>



## Get rid of the Weeds

Weeds will be popping up more frequently now, so make sure that you remove them as soon as you can. Weeds compete with your plants for space, water and nutrients, therefore your plants won't do as well if they have weeds all around them. Spend some time removing all the weeds, then add some Organic Compost in to the soil. This will help to provide some much needed organic matter, as well as aid in water retention and weed suppression.

<http://www.intelligro.co.nz/organic-compost-mix>



## Mound Up Potatoes

If you have planted potatoes, this month you will need to mound them up. Mounding potatoes is an important part of the whole growing process. It helps to cover and protect the tubers from damage, and from insects. If they turn green they become inedible and go to waste, and you don't want the insects to get to them before you do! Use this guide to help you if this is your first time growing potatoes.

<http://www.intelligro.co.nz/time-to-mound-up-your-potatoes>



## Safety in the Garden

There are a number of articles out at the moment that are highlighting Legionnaires. Whilst the chances of you contracting the disease are rare, it is always important to practice safe gardening and to know the facts. Here is what you need to know.

- ✓ Wear gloves when gardening
- ✓ Always wash your hands when you are finished.
- ✓ If you are opening bags, make sure you open them in a well-ventilated area and open it away from your face
- ✓ Avoid inhaling dust or droplets from potting mix and compost

If you develop any flu-like symptoms 2-7 days after working with potting mix or compost, head to the Dr to get checked out. Make sure you tell them you have been gardening, so they can test for Legionellosis.

### Symptoms include:

- ✓ fever
- ✓ chills
- ✓ muscle aches and pains
- ✓ shortness of breath
- ✓ coughing