



JUNE 2024



Welcome to the Tulgeen Riverside Nursery June Newsletter

I'm Goldie Rutherford, the Social Enterprise, Systems, and Marketing Manager here at Tulgeen Disability Services. Recently, I've based myself at the nursery and I'm thoroughly enjoying being amongst it, getting to know the team and understanding the way the nursery runs. I'm thrilled to share that Rachael Fuery has stepped into the role of Team Leader for the horticulture team, working alongside Alana Ryan, the TL of the Supported Employment team to ensure everything runs smoothly.

We're actively exploring ways to streamline our operations at the nursery, specifically by implementing a Point of Sale (PoS) system called Lightspeed to better manage the retail side of things. Additionally, we are introducing project management tools to refine our production processes. The ultimate goal? To free up more time for us to focus on delivering exceptional service and products to you.

A huge thank you to Craig Tulau, who has been in the Acting Team Leader role for the last 18 months. Craig has done a fantastic job keeping things rolling smoothly. You'll still see Craig around the nursery, helping customers, working on plants, or cracking a joke. We deeply appreciate his dedication and hard work.

What's Happening in the Nursery

It's bareroot time at the nursery! The team is working diligently to get our bareroot plants in the ground. But what makes bareroot plants so special? Bareroot plants are those sold without soil around their roots, typically during their dormant season. This method offers several benefits, including easier handling and planting, better root development, and often, a more cost-effective option for gardeners.

We're also hard at work preparing our plants for the winter season. Ensuring they are healthy and ready to withstand the colder months is a top priority for us. Winter preparation includes mulching, proper pruning, and ensuring all plants are well-watered before the first frost hits.



Spotlight on Supported Employment

Our Supported Employment program is the backbone of our nursery operations. We are proud to support 13 incredible individuals with disabilities through this program. These supported employees play an integral role in the day-to-day running of the nursery, and we truly couldn't achieve the level of success we do without their hard work and dedication.

The Supported Employment program not only allows these individuals to contribute meaningfully to our operations but also helps them develop valuable skills and gain confidence in their abilities. Their commitment and enthusiasm are inspiring and essential to the vibrant community we strive to build at Tulgeen.

Seasonal Tips: Winter Gardening

As winter approaches, here are some handy tips to keep your garden in top shape:

1. **Mulching:** Apply a good layer of mulch to protect your plants' roots from the cold. Mulch helps to retain moisture and can prevent the soil from freezing and thawing too quickly.
2. **Pruning:** Winter is an excellent time to prune trees and shrubs. Remove any dead or diseased branches to promote healthy growth in the spring.
3. **Watering:** Make sure your plants are well-watered before the ground freezes. This will help them withstand the dry winter air.
4. **Protect Sensitive Plants:** Use burlap or frost cloth to cover and protect plants that are sensitive to frost.
5. **Plan Ahead:** Use the winter months to plan your spring garden. Research new plants you want to try, organise your tools, and prepare your soil for the upcoming growing season.

Winter Plants Ideal for the Bega Climate:

- **Winter Vegetables:** Broccoli, cauliflower, kale, and spinach are hardy vegetables that thrive in cooler weather and can be harvested throughout the winter.
- **Winter Flowers:** Pansies, violas, and primroses can withstand cold temperatures and add vibrant color to your garden.
- **Winter Herbs:** Thyme and sage are hardy herbs that grow well in winter and are great for culinary uses.
- **Winter Shrubs and Trees:** Camellias and hellebores (Winter Roses) provide beautiful blooms during the winter months, while Daphne shrubs offer fragrant flowers.
- **Native Plants:** Grevilleas and Banksias are hardy native plants that bloom in winter and attract birds, supporting local biodiversity.

We hope these tips and plant suggestions help you maintain a thriving garden throughout the winter months. Thank you for being a part of our community and supporting Tulgeen Disability Services. Together, we can nurture a more inclusive and vibrant world.

Stay warm

From the team at Riverside Nursery