

BLOOM

FRESH NEWS FROM THE Paddock

Starting planting and preparing NOW

It's May. It's DRY in WA. Should I plant my Everlastings?

(Special note: If you've had rain, follow the planting directions below and PLANT NOW!)

After months of scorching sun and limited rainfall in Western Australia, it's important to make informed decisions to ensure the success of your everlasting garden. What is the best strategy for planting everlastings?

In this newsletter, we'll explore two options:

1. Plant now and ensure adequate watering, or;
2. Wait patiently for the rain.





Option 1: Plant Now and Water Well

If you're eager to see the vibrant colours of everlastings in your garden, planting now is a viable choice. **However**, it's crucial to prepare the site and provide ample water to support the growth of these resilient flowers.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind for successful planting:

1. Choose a good site - sunny, well-drained, good previous weed control and a loose and crumbly soil.
2. Thoroughly water the site.
3. Apply a THIN layer of mulch - this helps retain the moisture, suppress weed growth, and protect the roots.
4. Sprinkle the everlastings on top of the mulch and water in again - this pushes seed down to the soil for good seed:soil contact.
5. Apply snail pellets!
6. Once planted, continue to water your seeds regularly, especially during the initial stages of growth.



Option 2: Wait for the rain

Alternatively, if you prefer a more natural approach, you can choose to wait for the rain. While this option requires patience, it can be advantageous as it allows the seeds to germinate under optimal conditions, and you don't have to use your valuable water!

Here are some suggestions for preparing for the rain:

1. Select a well-drained sunny spot.
2. Prepare to remove any weeds when the rain comes.
3. Loosen the soil with a shovel to make it crumbly, ideal for roots to penetrate.
4. If necessary, amend the soil by adding compost or fertiliser to improve fertility.

Listen to the Let's Talk Gardening podcast with Jen!

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Sabrina's guidelines:

"First, clear the area from weeds and control the snails. Everlastings can't compete with snails and pests can wipe out your display in a few nights. In order to get better dispersal of seed, mix it with sharp sand before spreading.

Lightly cover your seed with soil or rake. Either tread seed or roll seed into the soil. Water gently. Some gardeners cordon off an area until germination has occurred so early germinated seedlings are not trampled.

Everlastings are self-seeding annuals and will reseed for years to come. They are drought and frost hardy and will flower much better if fertiliser is applied after germination."





Marie and Philip have been packing, counting, cleaning, lifting, fencing, gardening, labelling, and basically doing any job to do with everlastings.

Thank you so much for your help, you're welcome back any time 🍷 🌸

DOWN ON THE FARM



This is a picture of the sunset, after the neighbouring farms have been burning their stubbles. Some farmers need to burn stubbles to remove the stalk of the previous year's crop. Their seeder for planting is not able to work properly.



Dry seeding has commenced - there's no rain but we need to get our crops in the ground as we have a large program. We can do this because we are sowing roundup ready canola, and can control the weeds after we get some rain. The program will run for 12 to 16 hours per day for six weeks... Everyone will be tired!

 **WINNER for APRIL THREE 3 x 20g packets**

Jennifer de Silva, Cheltenham VIC
Marina Mitchell, Montville QLD
Kate Lyndley, Alany Creek QLD



A NEW competition for May!
Order online in May, for your chance to win one of
THREE 20g packets!

Keep in touch.

We'd love to hear about your experience of growing Lucinda's and Zara's Everlastings.

Send some pictures!

Follow us on the social links below, send us your questions, progress updates and photos to jen@everlastings.com.au.

Happy planting!

Lucinda



Pop over to the online shop now!



LUCINDA'S
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