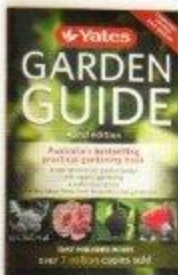


COLIN BARLOW chooses 10 products and plants for a successful summer



1 THE iconic Yates *Garden Guide* is now in its 112th year. This Australian bestseller has been updated with new features including garden design, organic gardening, water saving ideas and handy hints from Australia's top gardening experts. See if you can find some of my tips in there! Visit your local retailer to find out how you can get a free copy.

2 MOST gardeners like to work, cook and entertain outdoors during the summer months but hate having to go inside to wash up or wash their hands or garden tools. If that sounds like you, then the new mobile outdoor sink from Maze Distribution could solve this problem. No more holding a hose or squatting under a tap as this outdoor sink is lightweight, durable and comes complete with shelves, tool hooks, ample work space and sink. And when you've finished you can recycle the water into the garden.



3 IF your drip reticulation system is getting blocked up with iron, don't despair – Netafen has developed a new sub-surface drip line called Titan. With larger outlets, improved flow and a wider filtration area, Titan resists these blockages. Delivering 8 litres per minute through each dripper, watering is efficient and evaporation is reduced.

4 CREATE a little magic in your garden this spring with the new and improved Opulence fertiliser range from Millennium Grow. Garden Magic is perfect for using all year on most plants in the garden, even natives. Flower Magic will produce beautiful flowers and even tastier fruit, while Lawn Magic will make your neighbours green with envy.



5 ARE you one of those gardeners who never has enough strong bags or containers for using in and around the garden? If so, then Tuftubs may be the answer. Tuftubs are made from heavy-duty, UV and impact-resistant plastic that can be used to hold soils, fertilisers, tools or even the kids' toys. They're available in a variety of sizes and colours, even fluoro and scented tubs. Check www.tuftubs.com or call (02) 9918 8635 for your nearest stockist.



6 WE all like plants that rarely get attacked by pests and diseases, so the new release *Plectranthus parvifolius* 'Blue Spires' (below) is looking like a winner. Growing to around 40cm high and 60cm wide, the waterwise 'Blue Spires' has feisty green leaves edged in creamy white. The flower spikes of pale blue to violet bloom from spring until autumn. It will grow in full sun or shade and can be pruned at any time.



7 MAKE some room to grow your own veggie or fruit this summer. It doesn't matter if you only have a small garden, courtyard or patio, as many varieties can be easily grown in pots or containers. Tomatoes, eggplants, basil, chives, lettuce, parsley and capsicum make tasty summer treats direct to your kitchen table.



8 ADD a touch of class to your outdoor room or patio area with phormium 'Purple Haze'. This New Zealand flax with rich purple, arching foliage and bluish undersides grows to around 1.5m tall. Having an attractive clumping habit, 'Purple Haze' suits most areas, including coastal conditions.

9 FOR some hot summer colour you cannot go past the new 'Cracking Chimes' Million Bells calibrachoa. 'Cracking Chimes' will overflow any basket or pot with its fiery, vibrant orange petunia-like flowers and continue on throughout the warmer months of the year.

10 LEARN how to coordinate plants with landscape elements using the new Foundation Plantdeck from Horticolour, which features 270 images of popular plants arranged in blocks of colour with brief cultural notes and bold images. The handy size makes it a useful tool for the keen gardener, industry professional or wannabe designer. The Foundation Plantdeck is available from www.horticolour.com.au or phone (03) 9571 3627.

