





This mini-magazine celebrates Queensland's retail nurseries — and why buying local matters. Inside, you'll find seasonal gardening tips, spring planting inspiration, a spotlight on one of the passionate nurseries helping our communities grow, as well as

Proudly brought to you by Greenlife Industry Queensland, this magazine is part of our ongoing mission to support local growers and connect Queenslanders with the knowledge, inspiration and businesses that help our gardens — and communities —

Here's just some reasons why you should buy from your local nursery and garden centre:

Locally Grown = Locally Thriving

Plants suited to your climate, soil and seasons — because they're grown right here in Queensland.

Expert Advice You Can Trust

Talk to people who actually know plants — many with decades of handson experience. You'll get honest recommendations, not just what's trendy.



Support Small, Local **Businesses**

Many nurseries are family-run and have been part of your community for generations.

Back Sustainable, Responsible Growing

Buying local means fewer transport emissions and better biosecurity.

Unique Finds & Local Gems

Discover unusual, locally grown plants you won't find anywhere else.

Your Support Matters

Retail nurseries are facing big challenges — like fire ants, rising costs, and climate extremes. Your visit helps them keep growing.

AND GARD

E E E



As winter melts away and the days start getting longer, it's the perfect time to give your garden a little TLC before the heat of summer kicks in. In South East Queensland, spring arrives early — and fast — so a little prep now goes a long way. Whether you've got a lush backyard, a balcony jungle or just a sunny windowsill, here are some easy and effective ways to get growing this season.

Refresh Your Mulch

Mulching is one of the best things you can do before the weather warms up. It helps lock in soil moisture, regulate temperature, improve soil structure and health, and keep weeds down — essential in our climate where spring can feel like summer by mid-October.

- Use an organic mulch like sugarcane, pea straw mulch, or lucerne hay.
- Keep mulch a few centimetres away from plant stems to avoid rot.
- Aim for a layer around 5–10cm thick.

Feed the Soil

Spring is the time plants start to wake up hungry. Help them thrive with a good feed.

- Apply a slow-release fertiliser suited to your plant types (look for something specially formulated for natives or high-potassium for flowering plants).
- Top-dress garden beds with compost or aged manure to boost soil life.
- Water it in well or let the rain do the job.

Plant Now for a Colourful Season

Warm soil and mild weather make spring ideal for planting.

- Try seasonal favourites like salvia, marigolds, petunias, or kangaroo paw for colour.
- For edible gardens, now's the time for tomatoes, basil, beans, capsicum and cucumber.
- Choose locally suited varieties for the best results — your local nursery or garden centre can help.

Prune and Deadhead

Give your garden a tidy-up to make room for fresh growth.

- Trim back winter-flowering shrubs as they finish flowering and tidy up anything that looks leggy.
- Remove spent flowers from annuals and perennials to encourage more blooms.
- When it comes to natives, less is more — avoid cutting back more than one-third of the plant. Light shaping helps maintain their natural form and encourages healthy regrowth without stress.

Keep an Eye Out for Pests

With new growth comes new pests — and in Queensland, fire ants are one to watch.

- Look for unusual mounds or ant activity, especially after rain. Report suspected fire ants to the National Fire Ant Eradication Program.
- Keep an eye out for aphids, caterpillars, and mealybugs — opt for organic control solutions to manage pests and minimise impact to the environment.

Your local nursery is a goldmine of regionally suited plants and expert advice. Plus, shopping local helps support small businesses and environmentally responsible growers. Head in for seasonal seedlings, pest solutions, or just a bit of inspiration.

SET YOUR GARDEN SPRING-READ FOR QUEENSLAND GARDENE カ



Looking to brighten up your garden this spring?

These reliable, easy-to-grow native plants are perfect for adding vibrant, natural colour to Queensland gardens — whether in pots, garden beds, or mixed borders. Native plants not only thrive here but also support local wildlife and ecosystems.



Native Violet (Viola hederacea)

A beautiful groundcover with delicate purple and white flowers and kidney shaped-leaves, native violet adds soft colour to shaded or part-shade areas. It's ideal for underplanting, and often used as a lawn alternative in low traffic areas or filler between stepping stones.



These cheerful native daisies add vibrant pops of yellow, orange, and white to your garden throughout spring and summer. Well suited to Queensland's warm, sunny climate, they thrive in welldrained soil and are drought-tolerant once established. Ideal for long-lasting colour and texture, their papery blooms are also excellent for cut or dried flower arrangements.





Grevilleas (Grevillea spp.)

These hardy Australian natives bring a burst of spring colour in reds, pinks, yellows, and creams — and they're a favourite of local birds. Drought-tolerant and low-maintenance, grevilleas thrive in full sun and well-drained soil. With a wide variety of forms—from groundcovers to trees—there's a perfect grevillea for every South East Queensland garden. Visit your local nursery or garden centre to find the best varieties for your area.



were monitored - Luke Kingsley from the air when surveying the property via helicopter, and Kaila Kingsley taking on the rugged terrain on horseback. Kaila spearheaded research on the legal channels for sustainable harvest and sale. In 2019, they acquired their 'Forestry Product Sales Permit' from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and, under the Nature Conservation Regulation 2006 (QLD), acquired a 'Protected Plant Harvesting Licence'. Prior to the registration and licensing of Outback Orchids Australia, there had been no legal avenues to acquire these exceptional black orchids, and Kaila and Luke are proud to be the world first and only suppliers of the Wild Australian Native Black Orchid.

These remarkable orchids are salvaged rescued from bushfires, land clearing, and fallen tree limbs. Each specimen is assigned a serial number and registered

her own formulation of orchid foliar feed. These 'no fuss' feeders come in heavyduty, reusable spray bottles filled with the nutrient solution. Concentrate refills are also available. The foliar feeders are safe for use on all orchids, formulated to promote lush foliage development in the growth phase and to enrich the flower production and vibrancy of blooms during the flowering phase.

As part of its ongoing sustainability plan, Outback Orchids is diversifying its nursery - other Black Orchids and rare exotics are on offer, but Luke and Kaila remain committed to Australia's endemic orchids. A standout among their recent releases includes

Cooktown

Orchid and its rarer white variation.

pink

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INSIDE THE NURSERY: EPIC GARDENER

Looking to make a bold, beautiful statement in your garden? Epic Gardener, based in Loganholme, QLD, is changing the way Queenslanders bring mature feature trees into their landscapes — and how we think about removing them, too.

Epic Gardener isn't your typical nursery — they specialise in sourcing and installing high-quality, mature ex-ground feature trees, offering a complete end-to-end service for homeowners, landscapers and garden designers. Whether you're after a shady centrepiece or something truly eye-catching, Epic Gardener takes care of it all — from consultation and tree selection through to delivery and professional installation.

Their unique feature tree nursery stock includes both Australian natives and striking exotics, carefully selected for Queensland's conditions. Among their standout offerings are protected native species like *Xanthorrhoea glauca* (Blue Grass Tree) and *Dicksonia antarctica* (Soft Tree Fern), prized for their sculptural beauty and ecological value.

In addition, Epic Gardener stocks Dragon Trees, Olives, Queensland Bottle Trees, Pachypodium and a specialist collection of cycad species, including Encephalartos, Dioon, Zamia, Lepidozamia and Cycas—ideal for creating bold, low-maintenance garden statements with a timeless aesthetic.

"We work closely with landscape architects, designers, contractors and homeowners to ensure every tree fits the vision—and thrives in its new home," says Julian Ford, Epic Gardener's co-founder.

This stress-free approach makes it easy to add instant impact and long-term value to any outdoor space.

Epic Gardener also leads the way in sustainable landscape practices with its tree salvage service — an eco-friendly solution for homeowners needing to remove mature trees. Rather than seeing healthy trees go to waste, Epic Gardener offers careful removal, rehabilitation and rehoming — ensuring these trees live on in new gardens.

Salvage is available only for select species, assessed for health, viability and transplant suitability. This ensures the best outcomes for the tree, the environment and the homeowner.

"It's about respecting the value of mature trees and giving them a second life," says Michelle Tomkins, Epic Gardener's cofounder. "It's a sustainable solution that benefits everyone — and the planet."

epic

② @the_epicgardener

For enquiries, contact Julian Ford 0423 353 290.

Nursery visits by appointment only.

We all know the environmental benefits that trees, plants and green spaces deliver to our communities.

- Better air quality
- Reduced city temperatures
- Erosion control

- Creation of habitat
- Food harvests
- Visual pleasure and more

But what about the benefits to our mental health and our physical well-being? Enter Biophilia. Biophilia was a term was coined back in the 1960's and it means that we as a species on this planet have an inherent need to commune with nature.

Tending to plants can give us this connection via time out from unhelpful worries and help us to feel more relaxed, leading onto us keeping a healthy headspace.

Today therapeutic horticulture is all about promoting the process in which plants and gardening activities are utilised to improve the physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing of people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

Some of the positives of adding gardening to your lifestyle and spending time in green spaces are;

- Stress reduction and mood enhancement.
- Sensory stimulation
- Offers various levels of exercise
- Connection to your local environment
- Growing your own = a healthy diet
- Connection with others
- Creates mindfulness and cognitive stimulation.
- Lowers blood pressure and cortisol levels.
- Children have improved growth development and cognitive function
- Reduced mental fatigue and better coping skills
- Green urban areas often have reduced crime rates.

Get gardening today to reap the benefits of gardening and improve you and your family's health on all levels.

Discover What's MING BL at the Ekka

Looking to update your garden or home with standout plants? Start with this curated collection from our Ekka display, featuring showstopping varieties from some of Queensland's leading nurseries.



LITTLE AUSSIE LARRIKIN

Cyathea brownii

A fast-growing dwarf tree fern native to Norfolk Island, Little Aussie Larrikin is a striking addition to any garden. Its elegant, lacy fronds unfurl beautifully from a compact trunk, creating a tropical feel.



HEIGHT: 2–4m



SPREAD:

2-3m frond spread



POSITION: Full sun to semi-shade



SOIL TYPE: Adapts well to a broad range of welldraining soils



USES: Great in garden beds or large pots; perfect for creating lush, architectural interest

ROSE MINIATURE 'RED CASCADE' Rosa 'Red Cascade'

A compact climbing rose with vibrant, double red blooms, Miniature Red Cascade adds a bright pop of colour in a smaller, hardier form. It flowers prolifically and makes a stunning statement when trained along a trellis, fence or wall.



HEIGHT:
1-2m tall when supported



SOIL TYPE: Prefers welldrained, fertile soil



SPREAD:

1.5m



USES: Ideal for garden beds, pots, planter boxes, or trained to climb structures



POSITION:

Full sun



CYCLAMEN 'ILLUSIA'

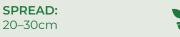
Cyclamen 'Illusia'

A striking new hybrid, Cyclamen 'Illusia' stands out with its vibrant pink blooms and uniquely shaped, wavy petals. This variety adds a bold splash of personality to indoor spaces and shaded outdoor spots.





SOIL TYPE: Well-drained, slightly acidic potting mix





USES: Perfect as a statement indoor plant or feature in shaded garden beds and containers





POSITION: Bright, indirect light indoors or part shade outdoors

ANTHURIUM 'MAINE'

Anthurium andraeanum 'Maine'

A lush, tropical stunner, Anthurium 'Maine' is celebrated for its abundant pink blooms and ability to flower all year round. Each plant can produce over 20 showy, pink flowers — each around 10–15cm wide — making it a standout statement plant.



HEIGHT:



SOIL TYPE: Premium coirbased potting media with high water retention



SPREAD: 35cm



USES: Excellent for decorative pots, patios, and indoor displays



POSITION: Indoors, patio, shaded garden or office spaces



Ceropegia woodii 'Green Love'

This striking new variety of the popular string of hearts features larger, silver-green variegated leaves that add a soft shimmer to hanging baskets or indoor pots. Fastgrowing in the warmer months and easy to care for, it's perfect for plant lovers of all levels.



HEIGHT: Trailing up to 4m



SOIL TYPE: Well-draining potting mix



POSITION: Bright indirect light, morning sun or part shade



USES: Ideal for hanging baskets, cascading from shelves, or trailing in mixed indoor plant displays



MIDYIM BERRY JAM RECIPE

Midyim berries (Austromyrtus dulcis) are a native bushfood with a sweet, spicy flavour, often compared to blueberries. Found along the QLD and NSW coast, they make a beautiful jam that captures the taste of the Australian bush.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups fresh midyim berries
- 1½ cups sugar
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- ½ cup water
- (Optional) A sprig of lemon myrtle or native mint

Method:

- 1. Combine berries, sugar, lemon juice and water in a saucepan.
- 2. Simmer 20–30 mins until thickened, stirring often.
- 3. Test set on a cold plate.
- 4. Pour into sterilised jars and cool.

Enjoy on toast, scones or cheese platters!





ABOUT GREENLIFE INDUSTRY QUEENSLAND



Greenlife Industry Queensland (GIQ) is the peak body for Queensland's nursery and garden industry — representing growers, retailers, and a wide range of horticultural businesses.

We support a thriving, sustainable industry by helping businesses grow, advocating on their behalf, protecting plant biosecurity, and promoting the value of green spaces in everyday life.

Learn more at www.greenlifeqld.com.au

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