

Gardening

ABC AUSTRALIA

JULY 2008 ONLY \$5.75

200+

GREAT GROWING TIPS FOR WINTER

WINTER PROJECTS

our step-by-step guide to jobs in the garden

DESIGN IDEAS

- + rooftop terrace
- + mini courtyard
- + townhouse garden
- + country estate

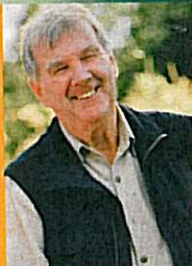
our best roses medal winners



WATERWISE NATIVES
discover what's new and exciting



MOVING PLANTS
we show how to safely transplant



PRUNING ROSES
pete's expert advice for easy pruning

news magazines



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plant of the month

Key: ■ suitable

AT A GLANCE

Aloe

Aloe spp.

Plant type Succulent

↑ 50cm–5m

☀ Full sun

🌿 Plant year round

🗑 Can grow in pots



what's new

Australian seedlings supplier, Oasis, now grows its herb and vegetable seedlings in biodegradable pots. Made from non-toxic corn starch that is 100 per cent biodegradable, these pots reduce landfill. After planting your seedling, add the pot to your compost, where it will break down in about six months.

must-do tasks for july

Wherever you are this month, here are some great ideas to get you outside.

- **INDOOR GARDENING** If the weather outside is not conducive to gardening, continue to garden inside by analysing the best and worst points of your garden and working out how you can improve it.
- **WINTER SHRUB CARE** Treat magnolia, camellia, azalea and gordonia with iron chelates, and mulch with hay, lucerne or sugarcane. Water well.
- **POINSETTIA CARE** After flowering, prune plants back hard by two-thirds. Mulch and water well. Sap can burn eyes and skin so wear gloves and glasses, and seek medical help if sap enters eyes.
- **ROSE PRUNING** Early to mid-July is the ideal time to prune roses in frost-free areas. Prune repeat-flowering roses now but leave once-flowering varieties, such as banksia roses, until after they finish flowering in spring. A simple method for bush roses is the 50:50 method – remove half the height and half the canes. Mulch with lucerne or sugar cane. Always use sharp, clean tools. For more information, see Pete's story on page 44.

ALOE

Aloe species and hybrids

Aloe, a true survivor of the plant world, stores water and food in its rosettes of swollen, often spiny leaves. The flowers of this succulent can be pendulous or upright. Choosing wisely, you can have flowers year-round. New varieties such as orange 'Eager Beaver', available May 2009, and red-and-white 'Capricorn' (both shown above) offer improved flowering and drought resistance.

GROWING NOTES

Plant in fertile, very well-drained soil in full sun. Fertilise in spring.

DESIGN NOTES

- Massed displays or borders.
- Great as a potted specimen.

ABC Learn more about the aloe species when Jerry Coleby-Williams features them on Gardening Australia, ABC1, Saturday, June 21 at 6.30pm.