



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
with Tim Goom

# Winter is the time to prepare for Summer!

As winter settles in and the days grow colder, it's easy to think that your garden should be left to hibernate until spring arrives. However, seasoned gardeners know that winter is a crucial time to lay the groundwork for a vibrant and thriving outdoor space come summertime. In this article, we'll delve into the essential tasks to tackle during the winter months, from fertilising and mulching to trimming and weeding. Let's dive in and get your garden ready for the sunny days ahead!

## Preparing the Soil

The first step in winter garden preparation is to rejuvenate the soil. Start by adding fertilisers and mulch to replenish the nutrients that plants may have depleted during the previous growing season. Fertilisers provide essential elements, while mulch conserves moisture, regulates soil temperature, and suppresses weed growth. A generous layer of compost is also beneficial, as it enriches the soil and improves its structure.

## Trimming and Weeding

While many plants may appear dormant during winter, it's an opportune time to trim back older leaves and remove dead branches. This promotes healthier growth when spring arrives. Additionally, tackle any weeds on warmer winter days to prevent them from taking hold and competing with your wanted plants.

## Checking Irrigation

Winter is the ideal time to assess and adjust your garden's irrigation system. Ensure that the levels are set correctly to avoid overwatering, which can lead to root rot and other problems. Adequate hydration is crucial, but finding the right balance is key. Proper irrigation will create an environment in which your plants can flourish.

If you are considering a more significant overhaul of your garden, with design and construction components, the cooler months (when you are less likely to be entertaining outdoors) are the best time to start your project, so you are ready for summer entertaining.



by Goom

## The key Principles of Landscape Design include

- **Unity:** Creating a sense of harmony and cohesion in your garden is essential. Achieve unity by incorporating consistent themes, colours, and textures throughout your outdoor space.
- **Balance:** Striking the right balance between elements, such as hardscaping and softscaping, creates a visually pleasing landscape. Consider the placement of trees, shrubs, and other features to achieve equilibrium.
- **Simplicity:** Sometimes, less is more. Simplicity in landscape design emphasises clean lines, uncluttered spaces, and a sense of calm. Avoid overcrowding your garden with too many plants or features.
- **Proportion:** Maintaining proportion is crucial for creating a visually appealing garden. Consider the size and scale of various elements.
- **Focalisation:** Every garden needs a focal point—a feature that draws the eye and anchors the design. This could be a stunning tree, a water feature, or a beautifully crafted sculpture.
- **Rhythm:** Your garden should have a sense of flow and movement. Incorporate repetition, such as the use of similar plantings or hardscaping materials, to create a rhythm that guides the eye and creates visual interest.
- **Contrast:** To add visual impact and create depth in your garden, utilise contrast. The interplay between light and dark, rough and smooth, creates an exciting and dynamic landscape.

Good enduring design is a carefully considered process which adds value to your property and takes time, incorporating the above principles- so now is the time to act. Call Goom Landscapes today to book a time, and I will come to discuss how to transform your outdoor space and extend your living into the outdoors for summer!

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