

McRAE'S MAIL



OUR NEWS

On the 10th December McRae's Gardens held its Christmas Party where we announced the Employee and Apprentice of the year. These awards are highly prestigious and always something the staff strive towards. This year the winners were:

Employee of the Year
Luke Apthorpe

Apprentice of the Year
Blake Rodgers

Please congratulate them on their success

FEATURE PLANT



Christmas Bush

The NSW Christmas bush is generally a large shrub or small tree and in cultivation it rarely grows to more than four to five metres high.

The leaves are up to 70mm long and are divided into three leaflets which are finely serrated and the new growth is often pink or bronze coloured. *Ceratopetalum gummiferum* is widespread over the east coast of New South Wales, commonly growing in open forests on sandstone hillsides. In cultivation the plant must have a well drained but moist position, in sun or semi shade. Annual feeding with a slow release fertiliser is beneficial.

PREPARING YOUR LAWN FOR SUMMER AND RENOVATING PART 2

Sunlight is critical for your lawn to thrive as your turf needs sunlight to survive. Getting the balance can be tricky, exposing your lawn to morning sun will dry any dew on the leaf surface which will minimize disease and fungal spread. In turn though providing your lawn with afternoon shade will keep the surface cooler minimizing water evaporation and drought stressing your lawn.

Cutting frequency is vital for producing a nice, tight and even turf surface. With our busy lives it is easy to neglect your lawn for weeks on end, and then face the challenge of trying to get it back under control. Ploughing the mower through a jungle of overgrown turf will scalp the daylight out of it and cause undue stress

for the lawn, your machinery and, most importantly, yourselves.

Cutting your lawn regularly, removing only the top third of the growth will enable it to tolerate extreme weather conditions better. The tight coverage that will be provided will minimize weed infestation due to the lack of exposed soil, and will be a lot better in appearance, your neighbors will be envious.

There is no replacement for regular watering and nice mild temperatures for optimum turf growth but following these few tips your lawn will be best prepared for the heat of summer.

For any further enquires McRae's Gardens can certainly assist with all garden maintenance issues.

Call us now for all your turf management needs on 1300-665-952

Written by Darren Turnham
Dip Turf Management
Newcastle Manager



MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM
McRAE'S GARDENS

THE YARD— DECEMBER GARDENING

Its Christmas time—have your garden looking great!

- Vegetables to sow —tomatoes
- Flowers to Sow—Marigold Petite Yellow
- Feed now—Lawns please see our article in this newsletter and the November issue about lawn care
- Prune now—Topiary and formally shaped plants
- Pest watch—Rose Black Spot is starting to infest bushes. Call us now if you think you might have this terrible disease on your plants.