

# McRAE'S MAIL



## OUR NEWS

We are pleased to announce we have been successful in attaining the contract to maintain Deepwater Plaza at Woy Woy. Managed by Savills this shopping centre is an icon on the peninsula and we are looking forward to working with Savills and helping to improve this site.

We had our first audit for our OH&S system and we passed with flying colors!! We are still one of very few landscape companies with national accreditation for their OH&S policies and procedures

## FEATURE PLANT



### Golden Duranta

For golden landscape colour contrast you cannot better Golden Duranta. The plants are attractive in bloom and even more so in fruit. The red fruits last for a long time on the bush. It has been found in practice that Golden Duranta can be trimmed to most height and width requirements for specific jobs. If left untrimmed Golden Duranta grows to 3 metres in height and up to 2 metres in width. Once established Golden Duranta will withstand dry periods and will grow even in poorer soils as long as the drainage is good. Naturally they grow better in fertile soils that do not dry out too much. Mulching to conserve moisture is beneficial.

## PREPARING YOUR LAWN FOR SUMMER AND RENOVATING PART 1

If recent weather trends continue we are in for a long, hot, dry summer. These conditions can really take a heavy toll on our lawn. By selecting a warm season turf species, such as Couch, Kikuyu or Buffalo, and by maintaining your turf's health; you are giving it the best possible chance to withstand the hot dry times ahead.

Air, water, light, cutting frequency and nutrient levels have the biggest impact on turf health.

Improving your soil porosity will ensure your plant roots can easily access oxygen and water, thus promoting a strong plant.

This can be done in several ways:

•Coring – this is a process of using a machine with hollow tynes to take plugs out of the turf surface.

•Slicing – done by using a machine with straight vertical blades attached to slice open your soil profile.

•Garden fork – suitable for small lawn areas as it can be quite time consuming. It's as simple as digging the fork vertically into the lawn surface.

The next item we need to look at is nutrient availability for your turf. If it's lacking in nutrients it will be weak and easily susceptible to pest and disease attack and drought stress. A fertiliser is made up of major and trace elements, ideally a Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium or NPK ratio of 10. 1. 8 are best suited.

Most lawn fertilisers are ok, but one important point is that inorganic fertilisers will burn your lawn if they aren't watered in immediately after application. If you do have access to water then organic fertilisers are great as they will give you a flush of growth, improve soil water retention, and improve soil

microbes. Maybe try to time your application with a rainfall event.

In these times of drought and water restrictions though, it can be difficult to water your lawn so a slow release product maybe better as they won't burn your lawn and will stay in your soil for a longer period.

Look for a product with an added wetting agent to improve your soil's ability to retain water.

Written by Darren Turnham  
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Operations Manager



## THE YARD— NOVEMBER GARDENING

### Its nearly Christmas get your garden ready for parties!

- Vegetables to sow —chillies Flowers to Sow—Sunflowers
- Feed now—Orchids are in one of the most important growth periods of their annual cycle, so they'll really appreciate some fertilizer now. Leafy veges and herbs like basil, coriander and rocket need to be kept well watered and fed with liquids to encourage maximum growth and prevent them rushing to seed
- Prune now—Rambling roses and lilacs
- Pest watch—In warm areas it's time to start thinking about fruit fly control. These days the low toxic lures are available which are safe for pets and children.