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Rhodo News

Newsletter 479



**Sustainable
Tourism**
Accredited
Business

Official Newsletter of the

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc

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Patrons: (International) Kenneth Cox, (Tasmania) Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, Barbara Baker AC

Autumn in the Garden



Spring, summer, autumn and winter—there's always something to enjoy at the Garden!

Calendar

Saturday 12th April

AUTUMN SPECTACULAR

A special lunch available at the Garden

Wednesday 4th June

Winter Warmers

Our popular Wednesday socials return

See us at: emuvalleyrhodo.com

Report from Chairperson / Acting General Manager



AUTUMN SPECTACULAR

Our annual Autumn Spectacular takes place on Saturday 12th April 2025.

- ◇ Time: 9a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ◇ Attractions!!! Market stalls, sweet treats, jacket potatoes, sausage sizzle, beverage outlets.
- ◇ Entertainment!!! Jazz, pipes, brass bands, garden fairies and children's activities.

Come along and enjoy the Autumn colours and a fun filled day with your family and friends. There is something for everybody!

WINTER WARMERS

From 4 June and every Wednesday in Winter we are re-introducing our winter warmers, as promoted on the Tasmanian Tourism Website.

Every Wednesday during this period, come up to the Garden and enjoy a cosy dining experience with a beautiful view, treating yourself to a wholesome warm meal and delicious dessert. Fresh Tasmanian sourced ingredients and a glass of quality Tasmanian wine included.



Acer palmatum



Katsura (see back page)

The menu will change every week, and bookings are essential. To book your table, simply give us a call or flick us an email. We look forward to seeing you there. For more details on these events please visit our website.

Please keep an eye on our social media for café specials and more “pop-up” events.

Ant Dry: Chairperson & Acting General Manager 0400 841 011 antdry@bigpond.com

Acer japonicum



Taxodium distichum



Around the Garden



“Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day.” (Shira Tamir)

Welcome to the best time of the year—well its my favourite time in the garden anyway. With the dry summer that we have had, Autumn colour has already started to show throughout the garden and the leaves are slowly turning.

Gardening in autumn is a fantastic opportunity to prepare for the cooler months while still enjoying some reasonable weather. Here are some useful Autumn time gardening tips that you may or may not have thought about.

1. Planting and Harvesting

- ◆ **Vegetables:** Autumn is a great time to plant cool-season vegetables like cabbage, broccoli, broad beans, **spinach**, **garlic** and **carrots**. You can also sow **radishes** and **turnips**, as they grow quickly in cooler weather and are great for tasty soup!
- ◆ **Herbs:** Plant hardy herbs such as **parsley**, **thyme**, **rosemary**, and **mint**, which thrive in the cooler season.
- ◆ **Fruit Trees:** Autumn is a good time to plant bare-rooted fruit trees like **apples**, **pears**, **plums**, and **cherries**. If you have fruit trees, it's time to pick the last of your summer fruits like apples and pears before the weather cools too much or those pesky possums have a feed on the last of your crop!
- ◆ Don't forget to come and stock up on some rhododendrons from EVRG now! Take them home and plant them out straight away! No need to have them sitting around in pots when now is the perfect time to be planting out. Reminder that all members receive a 10% discount on plant purchases. 😊

2. Soil Care

- ◆ **Composting:** Autumn leaves and plant material are great for composting. Add them to your compost bin along with kitchen scraps, and ensure your soil gets the organic matter it needs to thrive.
- ◆ **Mulching:** Apply a layer of mulch around your plants to help retain moisture, suppress weeds, and protect plant roots from the colder weather.
- ◆ **Soil Improvement:** Use autumn to work in compost or well-rotted manure to improve soil structure and nutrient levels before winter.





3. Pruning and Maintenance

- ◆ **Pruning** : it's common to wait until winter to prune deciduous fruit trees like apple, pear and stone fruit. However, with established trees you can prune in Autumn once fruiting has finished. This reduces vigorous vegetative growth and allows plants to focus on flowering and fruiting in Spring. Pruning helps prevent disease and encourages healthy growth for the next season.
- ◆ **Cleaning**: Clear up fallen leaves, dead plants, and any debris around your garden. This helps prevent the spread of pests and diseases.
- ◆ **Cut Back Perennials**: Cut back perennials like **lavender** and **sage** to encourage fresh growth in spring.

4. Pest and Disease Management

- ◆ **Inspect Plants**: Keep an eye out for pests like **aphids**, **slugs**, and **snails** as they become more active in autumn.
- ◆ **Fungal Diseases**: If you notice signs of fungal diseases like **powdery mildew**, treat plants promptly to minimize damage before the cold sets in.

By preparing in autumn, you'll be setting yourself up for a successful and vibrant garden in the spring and summer months!

Reminder to save the date now for our Autumn Spectacular day – Saturday April 12.

Plenty of rhodo-dendrons for sale, both hybrids and species. Heaps of potted colour, succulents, shrubs, indoor plants and gifts.

We will also have a bargains table, so come and say G'day and take home a few things to plant now, at the right time of the year!

Happy Gardening, *Neet*





The Enchanting Katsura Tree:

Cercidiphyllum japonicum

Nestled among the vibrant displays in the Japanese section of the garden, the *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, or Katsura tree, offers a delightful surprise for visitors. Native to Japan and China, this deciduous beauty is renowned for its heart-shaped foliage and captivating scent. In spring, its leaves emerge reddish-purple, transitioning to a lush blue-green by summer. Come autumn, they transform into a stunning palette of gold, orange, and red, releasing a sweet aroma reminiscent of burnt sugar or caramel—a treat best enjoyed as the leaves fall, although the scent can be elusive and wind conditions need to be just right.

In its natural habitat, the Katsura can soar to 45 meters, making it one of Asia's largest hardwoods, though in cultivation it typically reaches a more modest 10-15 meters with a rounded, elegant form. It thrives in moist, well-drained soils, preferring a sheltered spot to protect its delicate leaves from harsh winds.

At Emu Valley, you'll find two of these trees below the wall of the Sea of Japan, where its seasonal display and fragrance enhance the garden's charm. A slow-to-moderate grower, the Katsura promises years of beauty, making it a cherished addition to our landscape. *Maurie*

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden is proudly sponsored by:



Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden Inc.
PO Box U33 Upper Burnie, Tasmania 7320



Tourist Attractions