

*e - articles*



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*Secrets*  
*of*  
*Successful*  
*Winter*  
*Gardening*



sample

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In all but the mildest climates, Winter is not regarded as a very appealing time for gardening outdoors. Certainly in the colder climate zones where inclement weather arrives early and stays late, gardening outdoors can be difficult if not impossible, or potentially even life-threatening to both Gardeners and plants on the worst of days.

But for Gardeners fortunate enough to live in arid, mild,

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Mediterranean, (sub) tropical, moderating, temperate, and 'winterless' climate zones, Winter gardening can be a reality, even a pleasure. Matter of fact, it is the very season when many successful Gardeners do a great deal of their most important and industrious outdoor work. For this can be the time to create all those essential foundation and structural plantings. It is also an excellent time to much of the displays that will feature in late Winter into Summer and even beyond.

Of greatest importance is to plan carefully all outdoor activities to suit the ebb and flow of the Winter weather. In moderate and 'winterless' climates, this is quite easy as days are often comfortable or cool to mild and sunny. At best in the rest of the Winter garden zones worldwide, one must 'duck and cover' between rainy, stormy and excessively windy weather and worse.

The message here should be clear; check the weather before venturing outdoors. Prior knowledge about what weather lies ahead is often critically



important to the completion of various gardening jobs and when to put them off or make a change of plans. Planting can be planned to link in with approaching rain or a sunny and warm spell.

A period of sunny weather is often an excellent time to cultivate, dig planting holes, prune and weed.

Sunny and windy days are often good times to eliminate small emerging weeds through shallow cultivation. Prolonged dry and sunny spells are excellent times for building construction and often for laying foundations or paving.

Find a good weather website such as [Metvuw.com](http://Metvuw.com) or [NOOA.com](http://NOOA.com)

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that services your area and provides accurate long-range and well as immediate weather forecasting. Check the site regularly and plan your outdoor gardening activities list against the predicted weather ahead.

For Gardeners who plant celestially and/or 'by the Moon' might want to invest in an informative calendar from the:

New Zealand Bio Dynamic Farming and Gardening Association.

Contact: David Wright,  
Biodynamic Assoc NZ  
[[biodynamics@clear.net.nz](mailto:biodynamics@clear.net.nz)]

*or the*

Antipodean Astro Calendar from  
Brian Keats

Contact: Brian Keats  
[[briankeats@astro-calendar.com](mailto:briankeats@astro-calendar.com)]

*or*

Ken Ring predict weather

Contact: Ken Ring  
[[ken@predictweather.com](mailto:ken@predictweather.com)].

And always have a back-up plan for the best-laid plans can quickly be undermined by an unexpected weather event. Stay dry and warm! This is an essential prerequisite for successful winter gardening.

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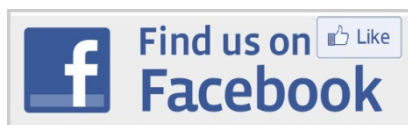
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