

JOBS FOR OCTOBER

We are now well and truly into Spring and the warmer weather is certainly making trees grow quickly. Remember that the best way to keep the trees compact and improve ramification (branch network) is to continually prune.

Most of the new growth, heads to the top of the tree so prune this area harder than the weaker branches.

AZALEAS - always remove any spent flowers as soon as possible and in order to prevent Lace Bug it is a good idea to spray monthly from now till December with Malathion, on the underside of leaves. Any Azaleas should be repotted immediately after flowering.

NOW the weather has warmed up you can safely start working on your figs. Remove any large leaves and remember to pinch out the unopened leaf between two new leaves to maintain a compact growth habit.

If your figs have become a bit leggy over winter, cut them back as hard as you like as they shoot back on old wood.

Any leaves with black spots should be removed as soon as possible, with remaining leaves sprayed with 'Baycor" and/or 'Pest Oil'.

With all the new growth on your plants and the more frequent watering, don't forget to fertilize regularly.

A fortnightly hit with fish emulsion or Seasol etc. is a good idea at this time of year. If you want to 'push' growth along on young plants, use a product with high nitrogen rates, however, on more mature stock that you wish to maintain without making leaves bigger, I use 'Bloom Booster' by Manutec. This product is higher in Potassium and Phosphorus but lower in Nitrogen.

IMPORTANT - Aussie Natives don't like Phosphorus, so use products especially designed for Natives. Seasol, Fish Emulsion, Blood and Bone etc. are fine however some say that Banksia and Seasol don't work together.

Always fertilize after watering so as not to burn the roots.

Except for figs that grow right through summer, I would discontinue fertilizing other trees at the end of Spring until Autumn.