

GREEN HOUSE

Preparation is key this month! It's time to dig in and get your garden in tip-top shape for the coming season.

Eat from the garden. We're huge fans of **Leafy Greens**, the vegan restaurant at Casalinga in Muldersdrift. All dishes are made with fresh fruit and veggies grown on the property. You can't get much greener (or more tasty) than that. *Details: 010-595-4563*

Garden tasks for June

- Protect tender plants from frost with frost cloth.
- Rake up fallen leaves and add to the compost heap.
- Water in the morning, so plants are dry by evening.
- Feed winter flowering annuals with a liquid food once a month.
- Don't let spring-flowering bulbs dry out. Water for 40 minutes every five days, although this depends on the soil type and temperatures.

Support self-empowerment initiatives ... unemployed locals have been taught to make these lovely pots from recycled newspapers and concrete, R50. *Details: 082-077-3649*



Slab of seeds, R90 from Garden Bleu. *Details: www.gardenbleu.co.za*



Slab of Seed



PERFECTION
Cabbage
a plant

Waterfall watering can, R1 495 from Weylandts. *Details: www.weylandts.co.za*

Hare, R2 700 from The Light Shed. *Details: www.lightshed.co.za*



June in the garden

This month, we're planting **Viola 'Tiger Eye'**. Why? Because it's magnificent ... and quite different from any other viola. The yellow and black striped blooms, like the markings of a tiger, certainly make this flower stand out. Plant it in a sunny border or as an edging and make sure to mass it for the most impact. It's also a fabulous novelty plant for containers and hanging baskets. It likes fertile soil that drains well. Make sure you keep the soil moist but don't over water it, and boost its flower power with a liquid food once a month.

Indoor plant of the month

The **Peperomia** is a long-lasting foliage plant with striking and unusual leaves. They are fleshy and rumpled, dark green but with a red or silver hue, and send up wands of lovely creamy flowers. You should display plants in a simple ceramic container that will best show off the leaves. These plants are happy with medium light, but not direct sunlight. Keep the soil moist but don't let it become waterlogged as the plant will immediately wilt and die. Likewise, the soil shouldn't dry out completely.