



EAT WELL. THINK BETTER

It's the middle of spring, the weather has been mostly dry and warm. The winds have been annoyingly frequent and strong. All this makes for a rather difficult spring and portends a challenging summer.

First, it's really important to establish a garden watering regime with a combination of hand watering and in-line irrigation if you use it, given that these are the most water conservative methods for watering. Hand-watering refers to the application of water for irrigation purposes through a hand-held hose or watering container. Watering by hand washes the dust, grime, and insects from plant leaves and creates a deliciously moist atmosphere conducive to good plant growth and thriving microbial life.

Second, it's worth considering mulching heavily. Although there are pros and cons to mulching. Mulching can act as a breeding haven for insect pests and contribute to conditions that encourage mouldy viruses, although these may not be a problem given the lack of rain. A key consideration, however, is that when there are very light showers, or you are relying on hand watering, mulch can prevent the moisture from adequately reaching the soil beneath. It's all a balancing act where you have to choose the methods that are best suited to your individual circumstances. Our current water management system is a mixture of all the above.

When we first plant out seedlings we are hand watering until they are quite well established, (4 weeks), then we are applying mulch and using in line drip irrigation.

Some tips on hand watering.

Your soil needs to have good structure to enable penetration and you need to be using a nice gentle shower rose.

The more gently the water hits the soil the better it can penetrate. Also, long watering is not essential. To know how long to hand water for here is a simple guide: Please note that if your soil is very compacted this rule will not result in effective watering.

To determine how much water to give a bed each day, strive for a 3 to 15 sec-

ond 'shiny'. When you first begin to water, a shiny layer of excess water will appear on top of the soil. If you stop watering immediately, the shiny layer will disappear quickly. You should water until the shiny layer remains for 3 to 15 seconds after you have stopped watering. The actual time involved will differ depending on your soil's texture. The more clayey the texture, the longer the time will be. A newly prepared bed with good texture and structure will probably have enough water when a 3 second 'shiny' is reached.



One way to determine whether you have watered enough is to go out the next morning and poke your finger into the bed. If the soil is evenly moist for the first 2 inches and continues to be moist below this level, you are watering properly. If the soil is dry for part or all of the first 2 inches, you need more shiny. If the soil is soggy in part or all of the upper 2 inches, you need less shiny.

Finally, mid spring is the time to plant out the seedlings for your summer crops. Makes no difference whether you have raised or purchased them. Your summer crop seedling can include pumpkins and squash, sweet corn, tomatoes and those other delicious summer fruits: beans, cucumber. But remember we could still get a late frost. There is not a great deal you can do except when one is predicted, try and cover your young plants.

If you want to know more about understanding the Gentle Art of Watering see the Wynlen House blog: <https://www.wynlenhouse.com/the-village-farmer-blog>

HERE, THERE AND IN-BETWEEN



"I've been everywhere man!"

Lyn Cram trips about the region

People often ask me where Braidwood's Romantic Country Weddings magazine is available. Many people assume that it is only distributed around here. This is not so. I travelled over 2000 km, taking our latest magazine to select venues throughout the Southern Tablelands, South Coast, Southern Highlands and the ACT.

I began my trip in Bungendore, then on to Queanbeyan, Yass, Harden, Boorowa, Young, Cowra, Crookwell, Gunning, Goulburn and back to Braidwood. The next part of my journey took me down to South Durras where the magazine was delivered to the Murrumurang Resort, then to many places around Batemans Bay, Mogo and Moruya. From there we journeyed up the coast, stopping at Ulladulla, Milton, Jervis Bay, Nowra and Berry. The following day the magazine was distributed in the Kangaroo Valley, Bowral, Mittagong and Moss Vale areas.

Our final destination was to the Canberra Bridal Fair, which was held at the Australian Institute of Sport hall in Bruce, ACT.

All along the way we met with friendly, helpful people who were impressed with the magazine and were happy to put it into their café or shop for their customers to read.

If you are interested in promoting your business far and wide, and would like to be part of the next Romantic Country Weddings magazine, just give me a call on 0456 625 948 to arrange a time for a catch-up.



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Civil Marriage Celebrant

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