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ISSUE 18 SUMMER 2008

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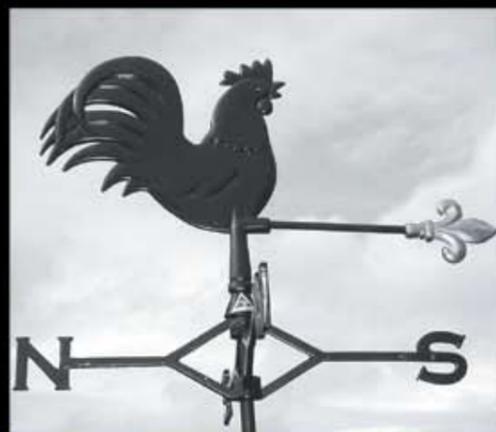
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Welcome to Oderings Live & Grow Issue 18

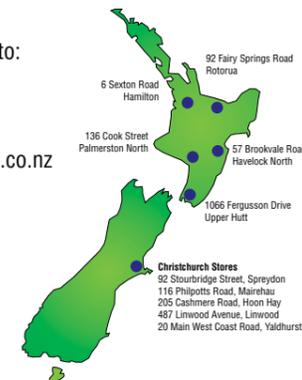
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Cover Shot: *Metrosideros Carminea*



Vege Revolution page 4



Sunflowers page 7



Callas page 8



Houseplants page 16



Gourmet Coral Lettuce



Cauliflower



Spinach



Rainbow Beet



Beans

Planting and Tips...

- When planting parsnip pour boiling water over the seed before you cover them with soil; this helps to crack open the seed pod.
- If you plant beans and peas they are really easy to grow up a frame. There are also dwarf varieties available.
- If you are planting Tomatoes they need their laterals removed to encourage fruit development. Basil when planted close to tomatoes adds to their flavour and French marigolds add colour as well as attracting beneficial insects.
- Crops such as leeks are more successful if planted on the longest day and harvested in the winter, whereas shallots and garlic are best planted on the shortest day and harvested on the longest.
- When planting mint you are best to plant in a separate pot as the roots are very invasive.
- Marrow and courgettes are the same plant; the only difference is that you pick a courgette earlier, before it gets big and becomes a marrow.
- Pumpkins, cucumbers and courgettes are better watered first thing in the morning or during the day, because if you water at night and the temperature drops the wet foliage is more likely to develop mildew.

Say goodbye to wilting supermarket veges and join the grow-your-own revolution!

I have noticed a huge trend to get back to basics and grow your own veggies. Good on you, not only will they be better for you, I'm sure you will notice a huge difference in taste. When doing a veggie patch for the first time it can be a bit daunting, but believe me, it is *so* easy! Once you have tried growing your own, I'm sure you will think twice about going to the supermarket and paying for something that is so cheap and easily done at home.



It is not necessary to have a huge area for your garden, as most veggies grow successfully in containers or small areas in raised gardens, as long as they are positioned in full sun and have good drainage. One of the most important things is your preparation, soil needs to be aerated; digging with a fork is the best way to achieve this helping the roots easily grow and allowing worms to come and make your piece of ground their home. When digging, add a product called Neem Tree Granules before you plant as it is a great soil conditioner promoting healthy plants. It also will assist in keeping the soil and plants pest and disease free.

All plants have different needs as listed below. Once you have prepared the soil it is time to plant. One of the easiest ways to plant from seed is to lay a rake down on the soil and make an indentation; this will help keep your rows straight. If planting 'Root Crops' such as carrots, parsnips, swede, beetroot etc they will grow better if you add some form of manure. I recommend compost mixed with Blood & Bone. There is also a product called Bio Phos, which is an organic super phosphate that when added will encourage root growth, which is what plants require to grow strong and healthy.

If planting 'Top Crops' such as lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli, they will benefit from adding lime, compost, and Oderings Garden Replenish.

Oderings Garden Replenish will give you all the trace elements needed including magnesium and sulphur, to encourage strong, healthy, tasty veggies. Lime helps to raise the PH to their ideal level.

When growing corn, plant about 20cm apart in a square grid, that way when plants are established pollination can be achieved easily as they are close together. Fertilise with Nitrogen and Urea, water well until plants are established then minimise the water to sweeten the flavour.

If you have problems with Aphids spray with Pyrethrum; it is all natural (organic) and has no with-holding period and after a good wash the veggies can be eaten. Otherwise planting coriander, basil, French marigolds and pyrethrum will also help deter these pesky pests. If you find some insects on your freshly picked veggies you can wash them in water and salt to remove them easily and efficiently.

If you have limited space it couldn't be easier with Oderings selection of combo packs including: Lettuce Combo (6 assorted), Veggie Combo has two of each of cauliflower, broccoli and cabbage. Mega Mix contains two of each of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, silverbeet and spinach.

Give veggie gardening a go!

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Raised Vegetable GARDENS

Raised vegetable gardens have been around for years but just recently people have really cottoned on to how great they really are. They are less work than a conventional vegetable garden, nowhere near as much bending down, you can have them in areas that a garden couldn't usually go (like on concrete), they are tidy, they produce better crops and they are FUN!

Some tips for success

Raised vegetable gardens come in many shapes and sizes. They can be kitset or you can have one made to your specifications. They come in plastic, concrete, corrugated iron and the most popular is wood. Wood can be treated or untreated. There is nothing wrong with using treated timber, just be sure to line the sides with clear or black polythene to stop any possible chemicals leaching into the soil. To make this easier, use a staple gun to keep the polythene in place; that way when you are putting the compost in, it stays where it should be. Be sure not to line the bottom of your garden with the liner as it needs the drainage.

There are also different mediums to use to fill them up. One way that works well is to fill the raised box about half way with pea hay then fill it to a mounded top with a well decomposed compost like the compost sold at Oderings. Compost that has not broken down properly will either burn the roots of the new seedlings or strip the nutrients out of the box so avoid mushroom compost. By mounding the soil up in the box allows for sufficient fill for the break down process and compaction. Each year a new amount of compost will need to be added to keep the box full. This is good practice because it adds more nutrients for the plants to uptake. A great fertiliser to add to the raised box is sheep pellets and Oderings Total Replenish. This will give the plants in the next succession crop a nutritional boost.

All of your favourite vegetables can be planted in a raised box. Tomatoes can be staked at the back, then smaller growing vegetables in front. One of the beauties of having the raised box is that you can grow ground cover plants down the side of the box. Yes, there is trimming involved, but because it is growing down the box there is less room taken up. These can include strawberries, cucumbers, and zucchinis, tumbling tomatoes, beans, peas or even a cranberry or a pepino. There is some planning that needs to go into the planting though. Try to keep taller growing vegetables to the back such as corn, tomatoes and beans. In front, alternate the planting rows with fast growing crops such as lettuce and spinach with slow growing crops such as onions and broccoli. Also try to alternate really leafy vegetables with upright growing vegetables, you could plant a row of carrots or spring onions between the rows of spinach and rainbow beet.

There is nothing more rewarding than growing your own vegetables. Kids love sowing and planting, watching them grow, and mum and dad love watching them eat the end product. Lets face it, when you have grown them yourself you know exactly what sprays have been used, you couldn't get them fresher and they just taste better. Also consider the price for planting a whole punnet of vegetables is less than buying one head of broccoli in the supermarket. With so many positives to growing your own vegetables why wouldn't you do it?



Vanessa Walmsley
Havelock North



Sunflowers

(*Helianthus*)

Summer is here and what better way to brighten your garden than with Sunflowers.

Our larger variety "Russian Giant" is a great Sunflower, growing up to 3 meters high and spreading up to 60cm wide. Although this one needs to be staked or supported by a fence and protected from wind, it is well worth the effort. Flowers produced, are as big as 30cm wide and golden yellow in colour. The seeds from this beauty can be kept for roasting and eating. Giant Russian also makes a wonderful flower for the vase. To get the best results and longer lasting flowers, cut while the flower is still slightly closed.

For a smaller sunflower grow "Little Star". This striking sunflower only reaches 30cms in height, making it a great choice for borders in a sunny position or even in pots. It produces vivid yellow flowers and is multi-flowering (meaning by pinching out the tips this variety will get more than one flower head unlike other sunflowers). This variety can not be grown to harvest the seeds, as it is a pollen free, sterile variety.



Available in seeds and punnets in North Island stores. Seeds only in the South Island stores.

Many people eat sunflower seeds raw, others prefer them roasted. Here is how to become a master seed roaster.

To roast sunflower seeds, place a single layer of kernels in a shallow dish. Roast in an oven at 180 degrees celsius for 30-40 minutes or until brown and crisp. Stir occasionally. Remove from the oven. One teaspoon of melted margarine may be added if preferred for each cup of seeds, stirring to evenly coat. Place the seeds on absorbent paper. Salt to taste (optional). Store in tightly covered container.

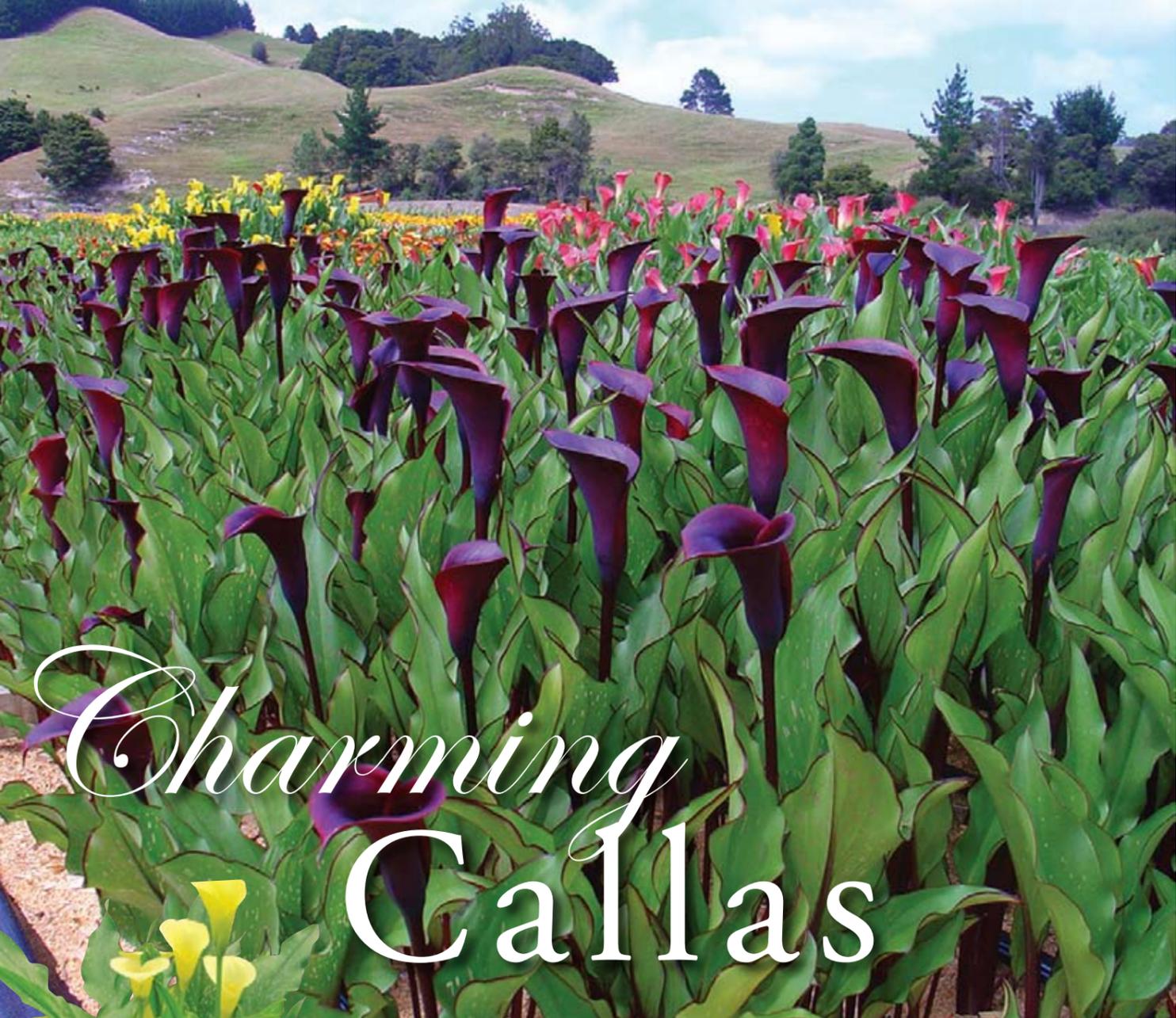
If you're growing sunflowers to harvest the seed heads, don't cut the heads until the green disk at the back of the flower has begun to turn yellow. At this point, the seeds will mature properly if left on the head when kept in a dry well-ventilated place. Birds will eat the maturing seed if the heads are not protected. After the petals have fallen off, cover the head with netting to keep birds away until you bring it inside. Seeds are ready to store or eat when the disk at the back of the flower has turned dark brown. You can easily remove the seeds by rubbing two heads together, or just rubbing your palm over the seeds. Store raw seed in a cotton bag in a place with good air circulation, NOT in airtight containers such as jars or tins because they encourage mould.

Sunflowers come in varied sizes and are so great for brightening any sunny spot in your garden or even pots; Staggered planting will ensure plenty of flowers all summer long. Now is the time to plant sunflowers, and if you are looking for something a little different than the two varieties above then you must try Oderings range of Niche seeds for an array of colours and sizes.



Tanya Muggeridge
Hamilton





Charming Callas



Zantedeschia hybrids are from the same family as the familiar Arum Lily that grows in damp areas. However, these lilies come from South Africa and have different environmental requirements. The flowers are a smaller version of the arum, as is the plant only reaching 40 - 60 cm in height, making it easy to fit into any sized garden. The flowers come in a dazzling array of colours and make an outstanding cut-flower. Callas flower in early summer with 6 - 8 flowers per bulb. They happily grow in moist free draining soil in sun, with preferably a little shade. The bulbs are deciduous, dying down in the autumn so are unaffected by frost.

Callas are a perfect complement to roses where they enjoy similar conditions. They appreciate the watering and feeding the roses receive and the shade they offer.

When planting callas in the garden keep the plant level with the ground (no deeper than you brought it), sprinkle the soil with Oderings General Garden Fertiliser or alternatively liquid feed fortnightly during spring to promote lush green growth. A layer of mulch or compost early in the spring will set your callas up well for the season and help retain moisture during summer. After flowering remove dead flower heads and in autumn remove foliage as it dies down. Callas do not need to be lifted once they have died down for the season and can be left undisturbed for many years in the ground.

If your callas are going to be grown in a pot, Oderings Shrub & Tub Mix is the best to plant them in as it is free draining. Attention must be given to the fact that they like moist conditions so frequent watering will keep them flowering and happy. Adding Magic Moss will also help retain moisture as they don't like to dry out. Fertilise in spring and autumn with Oderings Total Replenish or use liquid fertiliser as recommended above.



Black Star



Greta

With an extended flowering period with colours to match any planting scheme to adorn your garden, or for use as a cut flower these beauties will give your garden pizzazz!

With Christmas just around the corner a great idea is to purchase red and white callas and arrange them on your dinner table for a visual treat.

ORDERINGS OFFER THE FOLLOWING NEW VARIETIES:

- Black Star:** deep burgundy almost black.
- Goldilocks:** creamy white with a hint of yellow.
- Red Delicious:** candy apple red.
- Greta:** dusky pink.
- Crystal Blush:** white with a subtle hint of pink.
- Swarzwalder:** deep rich magenta almost black.



Swarzwalder



Diana Cutfield
Rotorua

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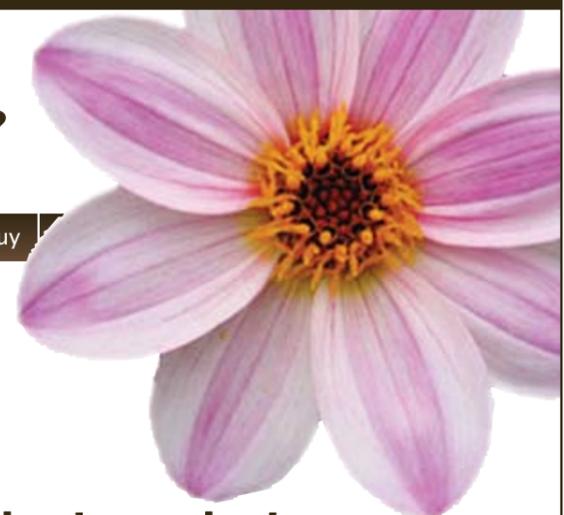
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Gifts for Summer 2008

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2 **Table Top Water Features** - Have the serene sound of water in your home. A huge selection of styles to choose from. All include pumps. This is an excellent gift or addition to your home at an affordable price.

3 **Umbrella Design Collection** - Harold Feinstein brings umbrellas to life. This designer collection has simply stunning flower designed umbrellas with matching tote bags. If flowers are not your thing then there are also many more new and wonderful designs to choose from.

4 **Bag Tags** - Give your luggage personality with vibrant and unique bag tags. Identify your luggage and kid's school bags easily; the only limit to your bag tag is your imagination, with a large extensive range allowing you to express your personality. Light weight and easily posted within New Zealand or around the world. An ideal stocking filler.

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Clivias



Every garden has at least one shady spot and Clivias could very likely be a solution for that gap.

Clivias are native to South Africa where they grow from fleshy bulb-like rhizomes in the shade of large rocks as well as in damp shady spots that are rich in leaf mould. They are similar to orchids with special roots which grow near the surface and have been known to grow in the forks of trees!

As with a lot of South African plants, Clivias do well in New Zealand conditions and are easy to grow. They can be planted at any time of the year in soil that is free draining in dappled shade. Clivias can't tolerate a direct frost but can cope with temperatures down to -5 degrees celsius under the cover of trees or buildings. Clivias like some sun, either early morning or late afternoon. Too much shade and their flowering is reduced, too much sun and their dark green shiny strappy leaves scorch. They do not like root disturbance but will happily grow into a large clump for years on end. If you do need to re-pot or split, do so in winter or early spring and do not expect them to flower that year. Clivias in the garden do not need fertilising but if leaf mould is lacking a layer of Oderings Compost would be ideal.

Clivias do very well in pots, so if the frosts are a limiting factor for you then this is how you can enjoy Clivias. Use Oderings Shrub & Tub as the

mix must be free draining. They can be left in the pots undisturbed for years and flowering is enhanced when pot bound. Feed your pots once a year with a 6 month slow release fertiliser. Potted plants should be allowed to dry out but not wilt. Don't forget to give them a shady site and bring them under cover in frosty weather. They can also be grown as house plant or in a conservatory.

Clivias come in vibrant colours of orange, red, yellow to cream; brightening your garden with their flowers from early spring onwards. Unfortunately slugs and snails also like the flowers, so slug bait needs to be laid as soon as the buds start forming. If you have pets 'Quash' is the safest slug bait to use.

For a fresh look Astelias look fantastic when combined with Clivias, as do Arthropodium, Asplenium and Ajugas.

Clivias are easy care with dramatic foliage and flamboyant flowers. New Zealand's own plant breeder Dr Keith Hammett says, "Clivias are unquestionably one of the flowers of the 21st Century" and I would have to say I agree.



Diana Cutfield
Rotorua



OUTBACK

with BRETT



Brett Harris
Barrington Street

With warm summer days here and a thick coat of grease on the BBQ, the old meat and 3 vege doesn't sound quite as appealing as it did during the wet, dark, cold months of winter. Why not expand your culinary skills and use some of Oderings exciting herbs to whip up some Southeast Asian treats.



Basil

Basil

Basil has long been associated with Mediterranean and Italian cooking where it is usually added to tomato dishes. In Asian cooking (particularly Thai), basil is added late, this makes the basil more flavourful and keeps its shiny leaf, which when overcooked is lost. The most common and popular variety of basil is large sweet; this has the largest leaf and adds a clove and aniseed flavour.

Coriander

The quintessential Asian herb known as Cilantro in the United States is also known by the common name of Chinese parsley. Coriander can be added to stir-fries, salads and curries. There is no waste when it comes to coriander, the whole plant can be chopped and added to recipes, both stem and leaf. The key to growing coriander is to treat it like perpetual lettuce. Harvest leaves and stems regularly to prevent the plant flowering and going to seed. However, if your coriander does go to seed, these can be crushed or added whole to curries. Coriander is delicious chopped and added fresh on top of Thai dishes as a garnish or can be munched on, just like you would on a parsley leaf.

Mint

Oderings grow a selection of mint that lend themselves to the taste of the orient. Common Mint is excellent added to Vietnamese salads and helps counteract strong chilli flavours. Basil Mint can be added to curries to add a subtle aniseed and mint flavour. Vietnamese Mint, otherwise known as hot

mint, has a peppery taste and is ideal added to soups, salads and stir-fries'. All flavours of mint should be added at the end of cooking, as the volatile oils in the leaf rapidly vanish if exposed to heat for too long. All mint has a tendency to wander and overtake in the garden; therefore they are best planted in a pot. If you don't want the look of a pot in your garden then dig the pot into the ground, this will stop the plant from wandering. Oderings potting mix is best used when transplanting mint into pots.

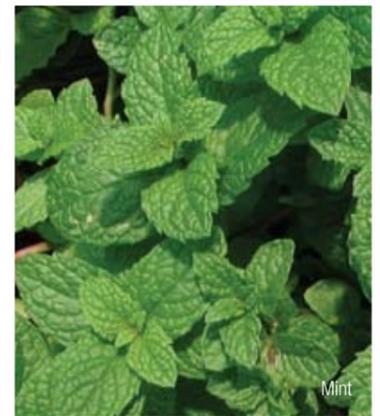
Lemon Grass

Although a native of India, Lemon Grass is used widely in Thai and Vietnamese cooking. Lemon Grass is a perennial and depending on the climate may go dormant in the winter. In cooler southern areas, Lemon Grass is best grown in a pot so it can be moved to a frost free area during the winter. Lemon Grass is extremely pungent and only small amounts are used in cooking. The fleshy part of the stem is cut up or bruised (crushed under a knife blade to release flavours) and added to stir-fries' and curries. Lemon Grass contains a substance called citral (usually found in lemon zest). This is said to help aid digestion and help with muscle cramps.

Step out of your comfort zone this summer and experiment with some of Oderings fresh and funky herbs; after all fresh is best!



Coriander



Mint



Lemon grass



Lobelia Fan Scarlet

Red Inferno

FIRE UP YOUR GARDEN THIS SUMMER



Callistemon

Lobelia Fan Scarlett

This perennial is not so well known by the average Joe Blogs but when in flower it provides something a little different and unique for the garden. Dark bronze leaves contrast with the bright red flowers making a great back-drop to surrounding plants.

Callistemon

The true bottlebrush; this Australian native is for hot dry areas in pots or the garden. Lots of size variations available with my favourite being Little John; he's small in size but abundant in flowers.

Metrosideros

Known as the New Zealand Christmas tree or pohutukawa, this plant has to be one of NZ's most iconic natives. Beautiful bottle brush flowers appear in summer. Legend has it, if the pohutukawa flowers before Christmas it is going to be a long hot summer. Available as a climber, groundcover, shrub or large tree.



Metrosideros Vibrance



Daylily

Daylily

Vibrant flowers bloom for up to six months a year on a compact plant that is ideal in any sunny spot in rockeries, the garden or pots. All parts of this plant are edible, so why not brighten up your summer salads with a blaze of red.

Poinsettia

No Christmas is complete without the lovely, bright red foliage of the poinsettia. Personally, I wrap mine in a lovely Christmas colour (to match my tree) and place on the dinner table as a great decoration leading up to the festive season.

Mandevilla

Ruby Fantasy is a new release to Odeblings this spring. Although

frost tender, mandevilla is a fantastic specimen plant if grown indoors, in conservatory's and the warmer garden. Why not train it up a bean frame in a pot and move it indoors for winter if you live in a cold climate. You won't be disappointed with continuous tropical flowers throughout spring and summer.

Geraniums

Summer and geraniums just go together... why I hear you ask? Geraniums are tough cookies that are hard to beat when it comes to drought resistance. If you have a version of the Sahara Desert in your back yard then a flaming red geranium might just be the ticket for you.



Alstroemeria

Alstroemeria

Everyone should make room for the Peruvian lily. A long flowering season through spring and summer means you can have continual fresh flowers to pick and bring indoors. If

you are looking for something a little smaller, my favourite is the Princess series which only grow to 30cm x 30cm, making them great in pots or as a border plant.



Pamela Thompson
Barrington Street



Poinsettia



Mandevilla

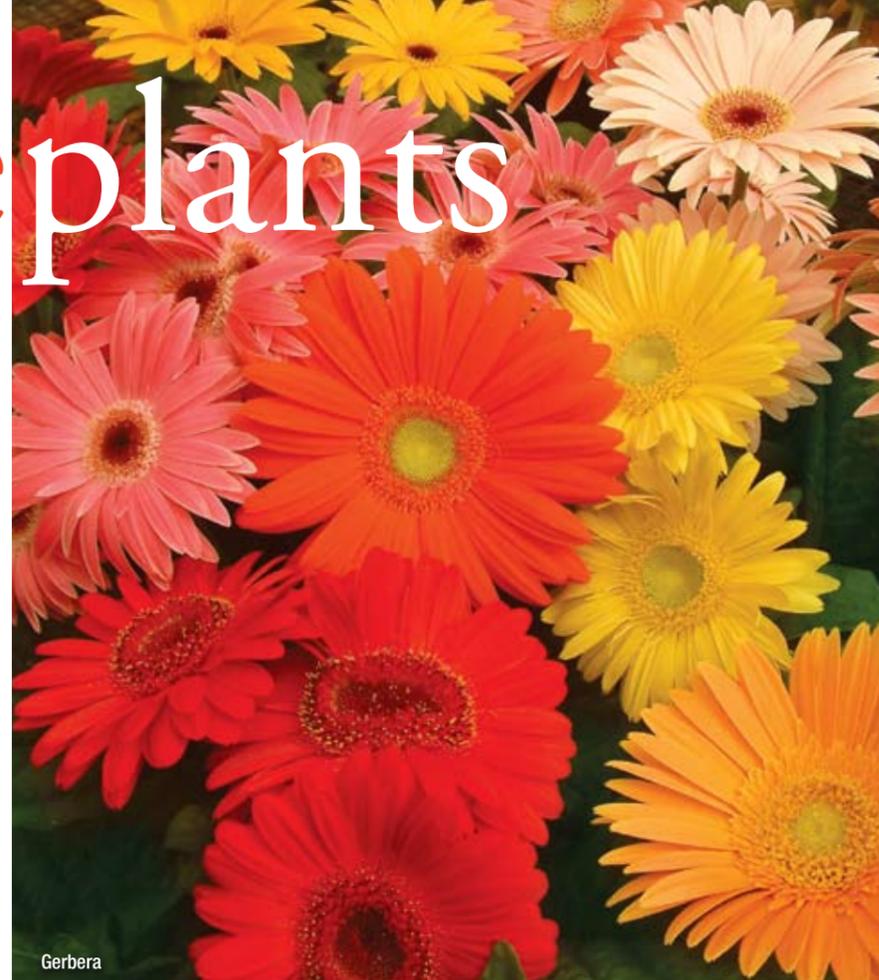


Geranium

Houseplants



Cordylina Celestial Dawn



Gerbera



Cordylina Pink Princess

With Xmas fast approaching now is the time to start thinking of the personal gift. Why not give that someone special a living gift with one of Oderings vibrant houseplants, ranging from the intense colours of our Gerberas to the lush leaves of our foliage range.

The gerbera has the most wonderful, vivid, bright, single and double daisy-like flowers on tall stems above their foliage. They make a perfect gift idea, adding a splash of colour. Keep gerberas in indirect or filtered light with evenly moist soil as they detest over-watering, but at the same time you need to avoid them drying out. Gerberas are best feed with liquid or soluble fertiliser; Thrive Fruit & Flower is ideal. To help prolong the life of gerberas and encourage future flowering, remove spent flowers by pulling the stem gently to the side at the base; leaving no pieces of broken stem.

If flowers aren't your thing the palm-like leaves of the Cordylina Terminal also known as the *good luck plant* may be the one for you. Oderings have two selections to choose from, both of which are perfect for adding a touch of the tropics to any home.

Celestial Dawn features broad foliage that is striped with lemon & lime tones. **Pink Princess** has dark green leaves with vibrant pink stripes.

These cordylines are suited to both full sun and filtered light. Remember to water sparingly and to let them dry between watering. Keep an eye out in store, as we have a few more colourful cordylina varieties to arrive in the coming months.

Whether treating yourself or someone special, Oderings has a huge house plant range to satisfy all your houseplant needs. Whether your preference is flowers or lush foliage, Oderings has something for everyone.



Aaron Holland
Christchurch

Sprouts



Niche seeds have created an extensive range of sprout seeds to reflect the taste buds of sprout munchers nationwide.

With longstanding and ever popular "Alfalfa" to "Gourmet Salad" and even an all important Health for Life blend, there is a sprout for just about everybody.

Sprout growing has been made simple and easy; Niche have created the unique Bioset Propagator. It's a straightforward process. Simply place your sprouter on a flat surface and spread seeds evenly across the trays. Make sure all Sipiton pieces provided are secure. Fill feeding vessel with water to around 1cm from the top. Place on top of seed trays allowing water to flush through from one tray to the next (wetting seeds causes them to germinate). Remember to empty the base. Repeat flush process at daily intervals. Store your sprouter in medium to well lit area, but not direct sun. Amazingly within 3-5 days you have a fantastic variety of sprouts for you and your family to munch on continuously all summer long.

Once you start sprouting you won't stop, it is just so simple. Oderings offer 6 fantastic flavours. Maybe you would like to give the sprout propagator as a unique but useful Christmas present



Ngaire Beamsley
Rotorua

which you can now do on our website at www.oderings.co.nz.

Happy sprouting!

"It's just so simple, once you start you won't want to stop."



WHAT'S NEW

ODERINGS EXCLUSIVE

Agapanthus Black Panther

This wonderful agapanthus has extremely dark blue almost black flowers on very straight, upright stems. This evergreen is perfect planted in groups as a groundcover, or used individually as an accent plant. It has an excellent vase life as a cut flower of up to 14 days. This Agapanthus has become a massive hit in Australia. If you miss out on this plant now, it's likely to be another year or more before you see it in any other garden centre. Plant in full sun to part shade in well drained soil. Grows to approximately 60cm.

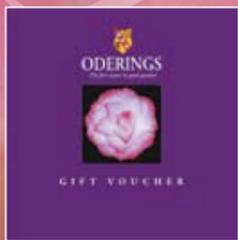


Pamela Thompson
Barrington Street



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Basil

When planted around tomatoes it will increase the flavour of their fruit.



Baby Marigolds

Attracts bees to the area helping to pollinate the flowers to give you fruit. Marigolds also deter aphids.



Water

Tomatoes love water. One soak a day will help increase the size of your fruit, but for sweeter, juicier fruit cut watering down by a 1/3 close to harvest time.

DECEMBER

As the weather starts warming up, it is now a good time to apply mulch to the garden, fruit and citrus trees etc. This will help keep the soil from drying, saving a lot of watering.

Continue fortnightly spraying of roses. Apply a side dressing of rose fertiliser to encourage summer growth and flowering.

Water lawns as needed. Raising the height of your mower will help stop the lawn from drying out as quickly.

Keep an eye out for aphids, white fly, blight & mildew.

Apply Derris Dust or spray Success on brassicas as white butterfly and caterpillars become more prevalent. Continue sowing summer vegetables including beans, carrots, celery, melons etc.

Time to harvest asparagus, beetroot, beans, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, lettuce, onions, peas, potatoes and silverbeet.

Harvest garlic on the longest day (22 December).

Good time to re-pot orchids and any other winter/spring flowering houseplants.

Keep strawberries well protected from birds with bird netting.

Further applications of fertiliser will help increase the size of fruit on trees.

Spray pip and stonefruit with Greenguard for black spot and brown rot control. Greenguard is also good for controlling powdery mildew on pumpkins, marrows and other cucurbits.

Oderings is closed on Christmas Day.

JANUARY

Continue to water lawns, fruit trees, gardens etc.

To conserve water, irrigate early in the morning or late in the evening. This will lessen the amount of evaporation that occurs, making more water available to your plants.

Continue to monitor white butterfly/caterpillars on brassicas.

Sprinkle root crops such as carrots with Soil Insect Killer or Neem Granules to prevent carrot rust fly.

Keep tomatoes well staked, fed and watered. Remove bottom growth to encourage top growth and increase air circulation around the base of the plant.

Harvest marrows and zucchinis regularly to encourage more fruit to develop.

Mulch tamarillos to discourage early fruit drop, caused by drying out.

Marigolds, zinnias and salvias should now be in full bloom. Pick off any dead flower heads and keep sufficiently watered.

Start to cultivate soil in preparation for planting early spring bulbs. These will be available in store very soon.

Trim and re-tie grapes and prune out old canes on berry fruit.

Summer pruning of peaches, nectarines and kiwifruit should now be carried out.

Spray tomatoes and potatoes with copper or bravo to control blight.

Regular harvesting of herbs will help keep the plants healthy and encourage new growth.

Oderings is closed on New Years Day.

FEBRUARY

Main crop potatoes need to be stored in a dry, dark place ready for winter use.

Tomatoes, capsicums, eggplants should all be harvested now; as well as onions, late sown garlic and cucumbers

Lightly prune roses, removing dead flowers as you go.

Main harvest time for late season apples, plums and peaches. Keep well watered to encourage larger fruit size. Prune out any overcrowded branches to open the trees framework.

Continue with regular watering.

Plant seedling vegetables for autumn/early winter harvest. Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, leeks etc are all ideal.

Continue to de-head flowering annuals to keep them looking their best. Remove any dead plants and prepare soil for autumn/winter annuals.

Potted plants require more attention now with higher temperatures and increased watering. A layer of Magic Moss over the soil will act as mulch and help to keep the plants from drying out too quickly.

Watch pittosporums for signs of psyllids. The tell-tale evidence of a psyllid attack is the blistering of leaves. A two weekly spray with confidor will effectively control these nasty insect pests.

As the main lawn sowing season (autumn) is approaching, now is a good time to thoroughly prepare any new lawn areas.

Plant bulbs now, varieties available include anemones, daffodils, freesias, hyacinth, tulips, iris and lachenalias.

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