

ODERINGS
The First Name In Good Gardens



Live & Grow

ISSUE 23 SPRING 2010

COMPLIMENTARY COPY



WEEDS BE GONE | CEANOTHUS | EDIBLE GARDEN ART



Iceberg

Bush or Climbing Rose



Warm Wishes

Bush Rose



Margaret Merrill

Bush Rose



Aotearoa

Bush Rose



Burgundy Iceberg

Bush Rose



Bantry Bay

Climbing Rose

Oderings Spring Rose collection



Loving Memory

Bush Rose



Lasting Love

Bush Rose



Leaping Salmon

Climbing Rose



Friesia

Bush Rose



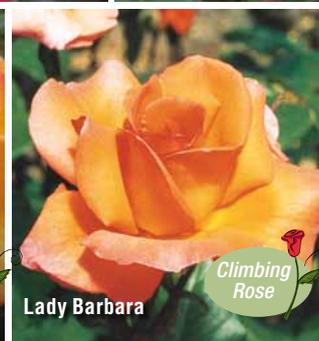
Kaitei Gold

Climbing Rose



Graham Thomas

Bush Rose



Lady Barbara

Climbing Rose



Just Joey

Bush Rose

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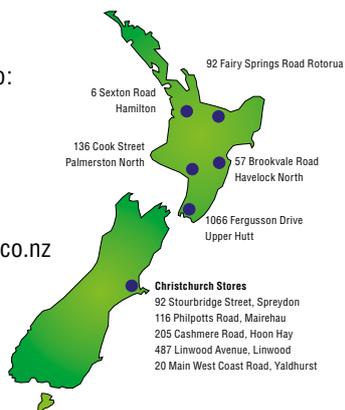
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Cover Shot: Sophora Dragons Gold

Digging In

with Daniel



Daniel Hart
Havelock North

Bedding Plants

You are bound to be as excited as I am about the new 2010 bedding plants this spring. This is a collection of some of our most exciting new lines to date! The most enjoyable part of bedding plants is the colour and variation they offer, so to keep with the trends this season don't miss out on Oderings new spring stunners.



Tuberous Begonia Tumbling Embers

Petunia Charms Fuchsia

Beautiful, hot pink fuchsia-coloured flowers with a white star pattern in the centre, and a yellow eye. This petunia has compact foliage, rain tolerant flowers, and is an excellent garden performer. Plant it in full sun, height 30-35cm.

Tuberous Begonia Tumbling Embers

A gorgeous begonia with a dwarf, compact, cascading growth habit, it is excellent for hanging baskets and window boxes. Flexible, elegant flower stems hang upside down with large, orangey-red coloured flowers, which are abundant until frosts. Plant it in semi shade, height 20-25cm.



Scabiosa Blue Gem

Scabiosa Blue Gem

A compact, mounding, hardy perennial with delicate green leaves and light blue pincushion flowers that float above the foliage, this perennial is a great cut flower or a bright addition to any sunny border, with a long flowering season from spring until autumn, height 25-30 cm.

Petunia Ramblin Burgundy Star

This long living, spreading perennial is smothered by beautiful burgundy flowers with a white star pattern from spring until autumn. It's great in baskets and window boxes, or rambling down banks or rock gardens. Excellent for a hot sunny spot, height 20-25cm. North Island only



Petunia Ramblin Burgundy Star

Antirrhinum Double Peach

Another first for 2010 is the world's first F1 hybrid double Antirrhinum. This peach beauty is simply a must have for this spring, with a dwarf growth habit and compact foliage, 20-25 cm.



Antirrhinum Double Peach



Impatiens Lizi Strawberry Sundae

Impatiens Lizi Strawberry Sundae

A glorious new shade of light pink with a strawberry centre. This is an excellent plant for those hard to fill shady spots in your garden or pots. Plants are uniform and compact, height 25-30cm.

Pansy Glacier

This is the world's first cascading/trailing pansy and is one of the most exciting new varieties of the year! What makes Pansy 'glacier' even more exciting are the chameleon flowers, that change colour from blue to white. It's fantastic planted in baskets and window boxes, height 15-20cm.

Chaenorrhinum Sea Breeze

Chaenorrhinum is related to the antirrhinum family and has dazzling sprays of light blue flowers which are great in flower arrangements. For a dazzling display plant it in a sunny position, in the garden or in pots, height 20-25cm.

Sweet Pea Simply Red

Simply red is a new daylight neutral variety meaning it will flower in early spring instead of summer like its predecessors. It is a dwarf, cascading, sweet pea and will make a brilliant filler plant for your hanging baskets, window boxes or pots. Plant in a sunny well drained spot, grows to 20cm.

Viola Lemon Swirl

Lemon swirl is a flirtatious new variety which offers you something unique for your garden this year. Awesome in window boxes or planters and pots, this delightful viola will add warm colour and daintiness with its colours of rich lemon, fading to a wash of white, with a picotee edge of royal purple, 15-20cm.



Pansy Glacier



Chaenorrhinum Sea Breeze



Sweet Pea Simply Red



Viola Lemon Swirl

Weeds be gone...

Even expert gardeners find it hard when it comes to how to attack weeds in the lawn. To prevent weeds in the lawn it's important to keep your lawn in good health. This is done by feeding the lawn two to three times a year with a quality lawn fertiliser such as Oderings Lawn Replenish or Scotts Lawn Builder. The other easy thing to do is not let any of your existing weeds go to seed, which means regular mowing, and by keeping your lawn dense you also reduce the space for weeds to grow.



Paspalum Grass

A GUIDE TO SPRAYS

To make things simple there are two types of weeds in the lawn; broadleaf weeds do not look like a form of grass and then there are grass weeds. To effectively rid yourselves of weeds there are 2 types of sprays.

Selective herbicides remove some weed species but leave others unaffected; these types of sprays are often used on lawns to kill broadleaf weeds but not the grass, they will, however, kill other plants that they come into contact with through spray drift.

Non-selective herbicides will kill every plant they come into contact with (they kill the grass as well as broadleaf weeds and any other plants through spray drift) so the only way to kill grass weeds and not your lawn with this type of spray is to carefully spot spray the weeds or, alternatively, cut them out.

Follow this lawn weed guide for easy identification of lawn weeds and appropriate sprays to use.

BROADLEAF WEEDS

All of the sprays mentioned in the broadleaf section are safe use on the lawn. They will kill the weeds but not the grass. Because it is a broadleaf spray it will also kill plants in the garden that they come into contact with, so don't spray on a windy day.

CATSEAR

This is often confused with dandelion. It's perennial weed with upright yellow flowers and its presence in the lawn often indicates that there is a lack of nutrients in the soil. **Use:** Turfix, Turfclean, Weed Out For Lawn Weed Control, or Weed 'n' Feed.

CHAMOMILE

Some people love it; and some hate it. Chamomile has fine needle like leaves and white flowers.

Use: Weed Out For Lawn Weed Control, Turfix or Weed 'n' Feed.

CHICKWEED

With bright shiny leaves, distinctive hairy stems and small white flowers it grows best in cool, wet weather and the seeds are easily spread by the wind.

Use: Turfix, Turfclean, Weed Out For Lawn Weed Control, No Weeds Ronstar or Weed 'n' Feed.

CLOVER

This is a perennial weed that is low growing and found in most lawns. Regular watering in the summer months helps weaken the weed.

Use: Woody Weedkiller, Turfix, Turfclean, Weed Out For Lawn Weed Control, No Weeds Ronstar or Weed 'n' Feed.

CREEPING OXALIS

This oxalis is a hard to kill perennial weed with yellow flowers that thrives in New Zealand lawns. A regular spray program with a hydrocotyle spray is the best way to kill this weed.

Use: Woody Weedkiller or No Hydrocotyle.



Cat's ear



Chamomile



Clover



Chickweed



Creeping Oxalis



Dandelions



Daisy



Dock



Hydrocotyle



Moss, Algae, Liverwort, Lichens



Onehunga Weed



Wireweed



Oxalis



Thistle



Couch

DANDELIONS

Another broadleaf perennial weed that die down in the winter and reappears in the spring. This is a fairly easy weed to eliminate, but more established dandelions may need a repeat application.

Use: No Lawn Weeds Turfclean, Weed Out For Lawn Weed Control or Weed 'n' Feed.

DAISY

This is a common weed that is easily identified by its white flower with a yellow centre. It prefers to grow in a damp shady lawn.

Use: Turfix, Turfclean, Weed Out For Lawn Weed Control, Prickle Weed Killer, or Weed 'n' Feed.

DOCK

If the lawn is kept dense it makes it hard for the dock to establish.

Use: Woody Weedkiller, Weed Out For Woody and Scrub Weeds, Turfix, Weed Out For Lawn Weed Control, No Weeds Ronstar or Weed 'n' Feed.

HYDROCOTYLE

There are a number of different species all of which can cause a major problem in the lawn, especially since a lot of weed sprays won't kill hydrocotyle.

Use: Turfclean, or No Hydrocotyle.

MOSS, ALGAE, LIVERWORT, LICHENS

The growth of these weeds is caused by the lawn being too wet, not having enough drainage, having too much shade or a combination of these factors.

The following products will kill the moss, but unless the cause is fixed the moss will come back.

Use: No Moss In Lawns, Surrender Mosskiller, or Sulphate of Iron (fertiliser).

ONEHUNGA WEED – PRICKLE WEED

Onehunga is an annual weed with yellow flowers. Once they have flowered (in October generally) they have set their seed for next year. The only way to eventually eliminate this weed is to spray before they flower and then again in November for two years in a row.

Use: Woody Weedkiller, Turfix, Turfclean, Weed Out For Lawn Weed Control, Prickle Weed Killer, or Weed 'n' Feed.

OXALIS

This oxalis is a bulb and hard to kill weed. The problem with oxalis is that once you spray it they drop their baby bulbs which then start to grow. You must re-spray when you see the oxalis starting to reappear otherwise you are giving the baby bulbs time to get big and have more babies, which takes you back to where you started.

Use: No Hydrocotyle spray and then apply No Weeds Ronstar to stop the bulb reemerging.

THISTLES

These prickly customers are well known.

Use: Woody Weedkiller, Weed Out For Woody and Scrub Weeds, Turfix, Weed Out For Lawn Weed Control, Prickle Weed Killer or Weed 'n' Feed.

GRASS WEEDS

Unfortunately since the weeds listed below are all classed as a grass weed the only control is a non-selective spray such as Round-Up, Amitrole, No Weeds Buster, Weed Out For General Weed Control or Natures Way Greenscape Weedkiller. These sprays will kill everything they come into contact with, therefore, only spot spray your lawn unless you want to kill the whole thing!

COUCH

You may also know couch as twitch, dog grass or summer grass. It will go dormant over the winter with the cold, but will resurface in the warmer months.

PASPALUM

A perennial grass which causes problems in lawns all over New Zealand especially in summer when it produces its large seed heads. Paspalum can easily grow to 30cm in lawns even when it has been mowed. It also grows best in the summer and becomes almost dormant in the winter. For the best results spray late spring and early summer, you definitely need repeat applications to kill this pesky weed.

WIRE WEED

This summer annual weed is fast to establish in spring in wet soils. You will often find it establishing by paths or areas where damage is caused from walking. This weed is commonly also found near your veggie patch, so the best control is to dig it out while young.

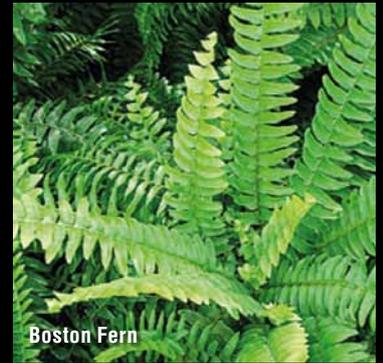
Spider Plant



A Breath of Fresh Air



Dieffenbachia



Boston Fern

Everyone knows that plants produce oxygen, as well as beautifying people's homes and office spaces. But did you know that during the 1980s it was discovered that a number of houseplants are extremely effective at removing pollutants from the air?

The most common airborne toxins found in the average home or office are formaldehyde, benzene, trichloroethylene and carbon monoxide. These are normally found in a wide range of items including, furniture, carpet, paints, plastics, synthetic fibres, cigarette smoke and gas stoves. Researchers have found that having one large plant per 10m of space can greatly reduce these types of toxins.

Orderings produce a large range of the most effective air cleaning plants but all plants produce oxygen through the process of photosynthesis. Therefore, any houseplant you choose in addition to the varieties pictured will help increase the oxygen levels in your surroundings and help create an eco-friendly environment in which to live or work.



Parlour Palm



Gerbera



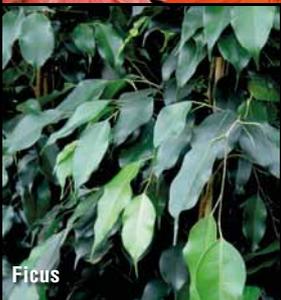
Peace Lily



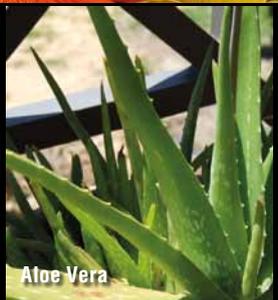
Dracaena



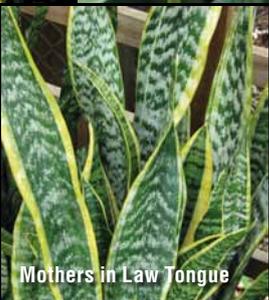
Philodendron



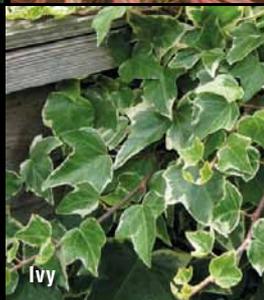
Ficus



Aloe Vera



Mothers in Law Tongue



Ivy



Ceanothus

Commonly known as the Californian lilac, the Ceanothus genus has become hugely popular with over 50 species of evergreen shrubs which come in many forms, from a low-growing carpet to a large shrub or topiary specimen.

The main attraction of the genus is the vibrant, long lasting, fluffy clusters of flowers which come in pink but more commonly vibrant blue. The shiny distinctive leaves and no fuss, easy care maintenance of this plant adds great appeal for the novice gardener. Ceanothus prefers hot, dry, free draining soil and an annual prune to maintain their shape and encourage vigour. Apparently, the less water you give them, the longer their life span – if only all plants were that simple.

◀ Blue Sapphire

this dwarf groundcover has unique chocolate-coloured foliage which is topped by masses of intensely deep-blue flowers in late spring. This is a bushy shrub which is low growing with arching stems and is superb to grow on a bank, in rockeries, in a decorative pot or in a shrub border. 40cm high x 60 cm wide.



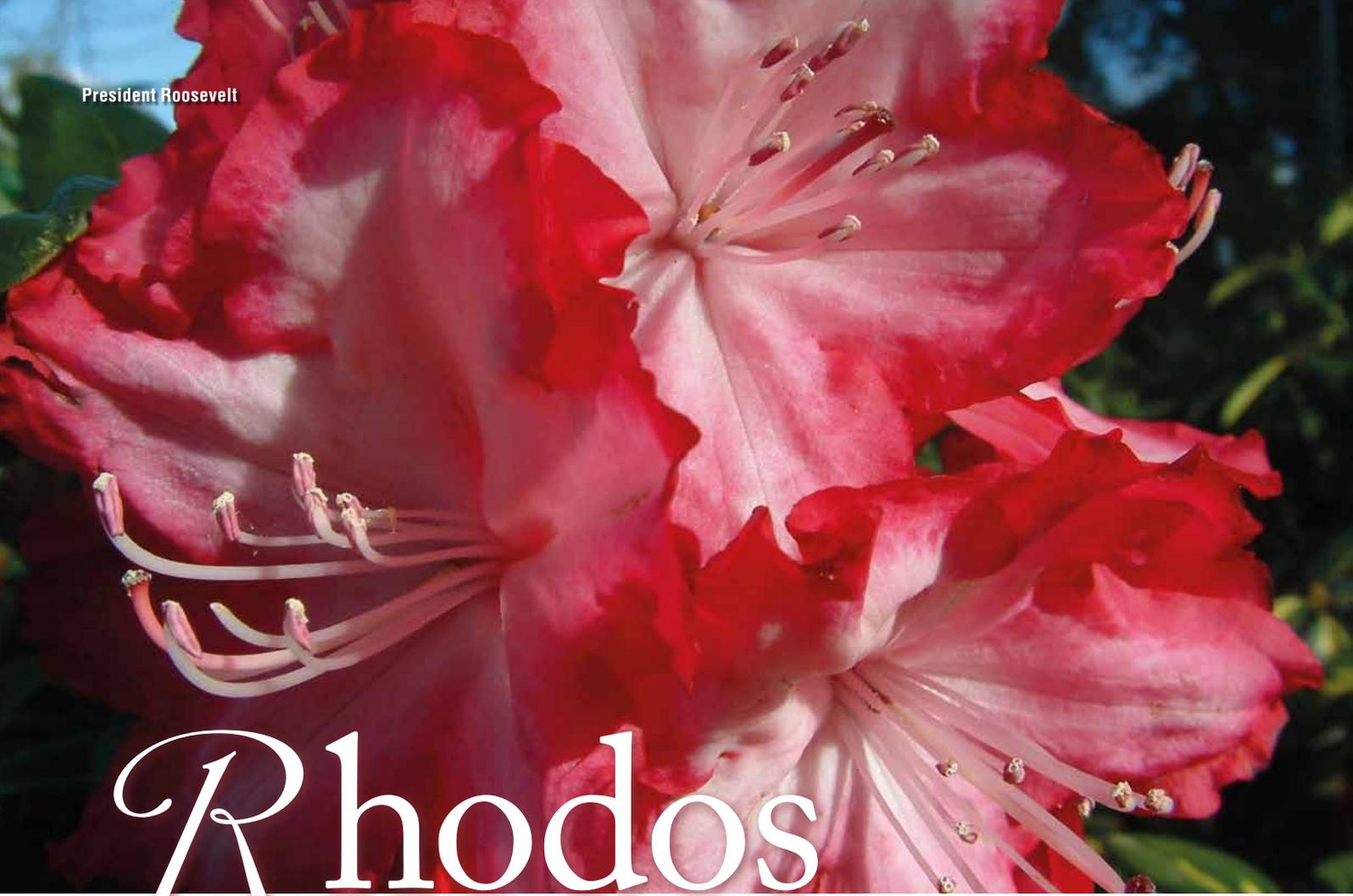
◀ Joyce Coulter

a fast growing, wide-spreading plant which is an ideal groundcover or garden gap filler and is often used to suppress weeds in drought prone areas. Mid blue flowers top this vigorous beauty in spring. 1m high x 2m wide.

Roweanus

brilliant, deep-blue flowers smother the entire plant from early spring onwards. I have seen this variety espaliered along a fence line and it looked simply gorgeous. Maintains a nice, neat compact shape. 2m x 1.5m. ▶





Rhodos

Rhododendrons are such a common garden plant that their unique beauty is often forgotten, which is a shame because there is a rhododendron to suit almost any colour scheme in the garden.

Often I recommend you use a few rhododendrons as background plants because they will frame the rest of the garden and make it picturesque. They also fill in gaps that otherwise would look boring or empty. Their position as a background plant suits them because they grow best in a semi-shaded position with a nice, cool, moist root system, which the surrounding plants help to provide. Rhododendrons prefer a slightly acidic soil, so you need to feed them in spring and autumn with Oderings Rhodo, Camellia & Azalea Fertiliser. The other important thing to know is rhododendrons have roots that are close

to the surface; this means that you must not allow them to dry out especially in their first year and in summer. Adding a layer of mulch twice yearly over the root areas shields the shallow roots and aids with the moisture retention.

ODERINGS TOP RHODODENDRON CHOICES FOR THIS SPRING

Princess Alice

A sweetly perfumed, free flowering rhodo with white flowers and pink striped buds. Nice compact plant growing to 1m x 1m. Flowers in late October.





Harry Tagg



Princess Alice



John Bull



Blue Diamond

Their position as a background plant suits them because they grow best in a semi-shaded position with a nice, cool, moist root system, which the surrounding plants help to provide.



Mount Everest

President Roosevelt

Early October flowering with frilly florets and rich rosy red margins that merge to white in the centre. Distinctive variegated green and yellow leaves add another splash of colour. Vigorous, grows to 2m high.

Mount Everest

Flowers appear in early October and are lightly fragrant, pure white flowers with speckled red throats. Free flowering with vigorous growth, 2.5m high x 2m wide.

Blue Diamond

Small growing, free flowering plant with rich lavender blue flowers with a hint of violet in tight clusters. Plant this showy dwarf in a rock garden or in shrub borders. Grows to 1m x 1m.

John Bull

Pale pink flowers are flushed cream and appear in October. This sweetly fragrant, dwarf addition should be combined with shrub borders or woodland gardens. 1m

Unique

Flowers in early October with bright pink

buds that open to a buttery cream. Once established this plant gets so smothered in flowers you will be lucky to see any leaves. Grows from 1.2 to 2.5m high x 2m wide.

Harry Tagg

Large, fragrant, long lasting blooms of white which are tinged pink and open in early October. 1.2m

Sappho

Unique white flowers appear in late October and are heavily spotted with an eye catching maroon. This is a variety that has been around a long time and remains extremely popular. Height 1.8m



Countess Of Haddington – pink buds in early October open into strongly scented, large trumpet shaped blooms of white or light pink. Grows 3-4m high x 1.5m wide.



Lemon Overdrive

Everyone can have the fresh lemon scent by planting some lemon-scented herbs. Even if you don't think you will use the lemon-scented herbs in your cooking the fresh scent of lemon in the garden is simply delightful; However, if you like to add new flavours to your favourite dishes add the leaves of these herbs to teas, seafood, desserts, soups, stir fries or add a sprig to a nice, cool, glass of iced water for a refreshing treat.

Lemon Balm ▲

A perennial herb with oval shaped leaves and a delicate lemon scent with a sweet taste that is best enjoyed with sorbets, fruit and vegetable dishes or to season chicken and fish. I grow lemon balm in with my tomatoes or around beans because the white fragrant flowers that appear in summer are some of the best to attract bees for pollination. Lemon balm is best when planted in full sun or part shade, and harvest or prune often to encourage a bushier plant.

Lemon Savory

This plant has a strong aromatic flavour that is similar to thyme, with a true pepper taste mixed with a lemon odor. It can be used for sweet and savory foods alike, but is normally used in tea. This is a tender perennial that should be planted in full sun or part shade.





Lemon Verbena

Of all the lemon-scented herbs lemon verbena has one of the truest scents. It is a fast growing, frost tender (don't plant until late October) plant with a shrubby appearance, growing to 1m or more. In cold climates lemon verbena is treated as an annual or a deciduous perennial. Plant in full sun in well drained soil and prune/harvest regularly to maintain a nice bushy shape. Use the leaves in teas to help sooth and calm the digestive tract or to season chicken, seafood, vegetables and even desserts.



Lemon Grass

Most of us recognise lemon grass as the scented herb that gives Thai food its distinct flavour. Lemon grass is a drought resistant, frost tender perennial that thrives in full sun. It has bulbous stems with lemon scented leaves, looks like a weedy grass and grows up to 1m. Break the leaves to release lemon flavoured oil or use as a seasoning in Thai or Vietnamese dishes.



Lemon Thyme

This is the perfect pot plant for your windowsill. Lemon thyme is hugely popular because it has a strong lemony scent and taste, which makes it ideal for recipes that require lemon juice or rind. The leaves are also used to add flavour to marinades for chicken and fish, to season vegetables, or used as an additive in teas. This easy to grow ground cover perennial does best in full sun.

Home Grown

Petals at Oderings Barrington is at the crossroads of Richard Till and Te Radar, enchanting patrons with fine cafe fare and vegetable treats to inspire the home gardener. We had a quick word with the Chef about the ever popular Kumara & Lemongrass Soup.

“ Early on the cafe team identified with Brett McGregor (*Masterchef New Zealand*) and his passion for South East Asian flavours. My own interest in cooking stems from one balmy evening at a beachside eatery on Koh Samui where we were served whole flounder grilled over the embers of a driftwood fire. The aroma of Ginger, Lemongrass and Kaffir Lime filling the evening air as it does the kitchen at the Cafe whenever we whip up the ever popular Kumara & Lemongrass soup. We love these flavours so much that we established a Kaffir Lime tree in the home garden. Also every year sees a fresh crop of Lemongrass. For those of you who live up north you can grow Kumara as well!

As with all vegetables the terminal handling in the kitchen is far less important than the variety and how it is grown. When you cook remain open to these variations and taste along the way. ”



Kumara and Lemongrass Soup

Golden Kumara 1.2 Kg
Lemongrass Stem 100g
Kaffir Lime Leaves 2
Shallots 100g
Celery 100g

Garlic 1 Clove
Fresh Ginger 8cm piece
Grape Seed Oil 1 Tablespoon
Water 1200ml
Coconut Milk 500ml

Sweat the Lemongrass, Lime Leaves, Shallots, Celery, Garlic and Ginger with the oil in a saucepan until the Shallots become translucent. Then add the Kumara and water. Bring the mixture to the boil and simmer until the Kumara is very soft. Remove from the heat and add the Coconut Milk. Puree, season and pass while hot. To serve, ladle into bowls, sprinkle with shredded Coconut and garnish with fresh Coriander.

Grow your own New Zealand and taste the difference

Helleborus Orientalis

– WINTER ROSE



By planting Helleborus now you ensure an abundance of flowers for winter and spring next season.



All species of Helleborus are native to Southern Europe and Western Asia. They are known in the northern hemisphere for their winter flowering, which I suppose is where the common name of winter rose comes from; of course they are not actually roses but are closely related to ranunculus.

Helleborus is a genus of evergreen perennials with beautiful, open, cup-shaped flowers that will provide colour during the late winter months and throughout spring. Helleborus Orientalis is the best known with colours mostly in shades of pink. Hybridisation over the years has produced a wider range of exciting colours, including: white, lime green, soft pinks, rose, wine red and claret. Some have deeper reverse colourings and others are beautifully spotted, splashed or marbled with other colours, and now there are even doubles.

Plant them singly or en masse in shade, or in woodland areas under trees always making sure that the soil is enriched with organic matter. Give them a few years to fully establish and they will reward you year after year with masses of fascinating coloured flowers at a time when blooms are hard to come by.

To propagate hellebores, lift and divide the older plants after flowering, or if you mulch and keep the soil moist through spring, let the seeds drop naturally. They will then germinate and can be transplanted into other parts of the garden. **Note** that they will take up to three years to flower from seed, at which time you will have a whole new exciting range of colours.

Helleborus are trouble-free plants to grow, but don't forget to sprinkle some slug and snail pellets around to deal with those sneaky little pests.

H. 'JOY BOUQUET'

A recent introduction with glorious, deep pink coloured flowers.

H. 'WHITE MAGIC'

A pure white, New Zealand raised hybrid.

H. 'FOETIDUS WESTER FISK'

(Winter Rose or Stinking Hellebore)

It doesn't smell at all! This is an interesting plant with leathery leaves and nodding, green, cup-shaped flowers, the petals of which are tipped purple. It's a real favorite of mine because it is a little different and flowers during all those cold months.

H. 'STERNII'

You will typically see the stunning, lime-green flowers from July through to November.

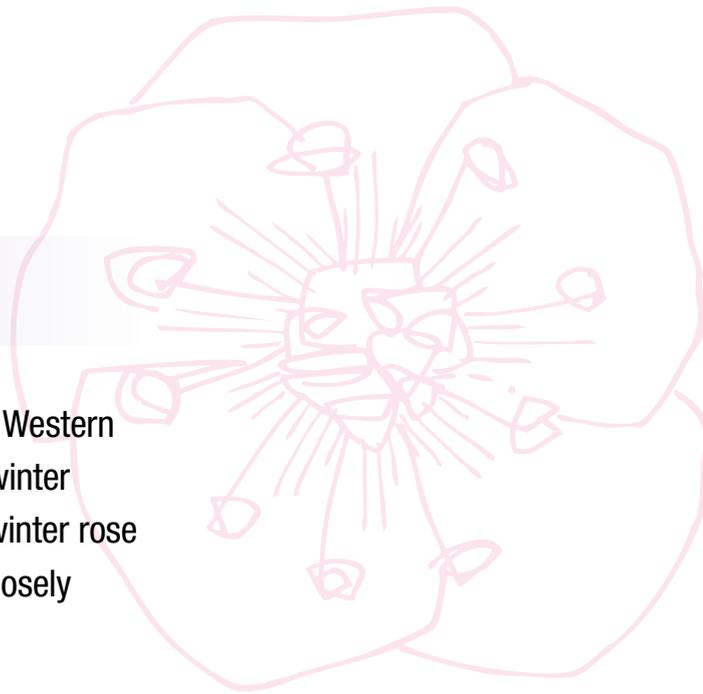
H. X ORIENTALIS HYBRIDS

There are some excellent flower types in this range. Over the years they have been selected for flower size, colour and also stem length.

These come in greenish to pure white, spotted pinks to deep maroon, and almost black.

H. X ORIENTALIS DOUBLE HYBRIDS

About eight years ago a number of double hybrids were imported from England. From these plants many new doubles have been available for the past two years. Double hybrids come in a variety of colours, flower size, stem length and leaf form.





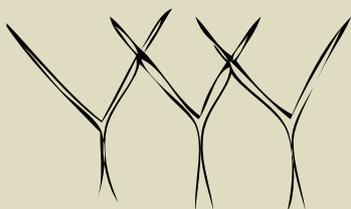
EDIBLE GARDEN ART ESPALIER

The art of espalier — training trees two dimensionally — is a time-honoured way to grow a generous harvest of fruit from a small space. An espaliered fruit tree can become a piece of living sculpture and a beautiful example of the interaction between the gardener and the tree.

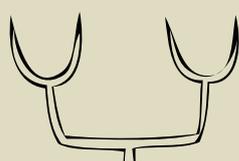
In Roman times, fruit trees were trained into two dimensions along sunny walls and over the centuries European gardeners have perfected the art. Today, espaliered trees are grown not only against walls, but can be trained to grow against almost any supportive structure to hide unattractive garden features and also act as dividers. While gardeners with large gardens should consider growing an espalier for their beauty and function, it's the gardeners with limited space that will appreciate them the most.

Almost any type of fruit tree can be espaliered. The easiest trees to espalier are apples and pears, as they fruit on the same wood year after year and so they suit a static tree shape. Other types of fruit trees like peaches, nectarines, plums and figs can be espaliered in a fan shape, which allows for the growth of new fruiting wood.





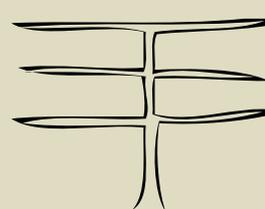
Belgian Fence



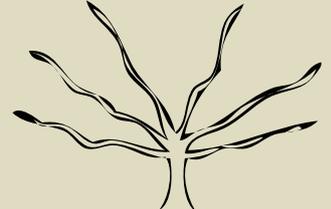
Double U



Candellabra



Tier Cordon



Informal Fan

Getting Started with your Espaliered Fruit Tree

Step 1: Plan your pattern: shown above. While the French tradition honours over a hundred different espalier forms, for the average gardener, a handful of these forms will more than suffice.

The most important consideration is what age wood the fruit is produced from – this will influence which pattern is most suitable. As a general rule, apples and pears can be espaliered into virtually any shape, other fruits will be most productive in a fan shape.

Step 2: Choose a location: fruit trees need a minimum of six hours of direct sunlight per day.

Step 3: Choose the plant and make sure it is growing on an appropriate rootstock, if it is grafted. As espaliering limits growth by rigorous pruning, semi-dwarf rootstocks are recommended (apart from clay soils where vigorous rootstocks are recommended). Usually a 'whip' (tree without branches) will be ideal – the instructions below are for this tree type.

Step 4: Prepare the support: You will need to fit wires to a structure that will support your espalier. The wires are usually spaced 30-45cm apart.

Step 5: Plant your tree: Set the plant about 20cm away from walls and fences. You can fertilise the soil with compost to aid growth.

Step 6: Start training your tree!



Basic techniques for training your espalier (three tier cordon form) ►

To start training your newly planted 'espalier to be', prune in early spring to the height from which you want the lowest branching to start. This will usually be 30-60cm above the ground.

From where you have made the cut a number of shoots will start growing. Select what you need to become your horizontal branches and a new vertical leader. Tie the branches on to the wires (or for other shapes like a fan, use bamboo canes to direct the growth).

It is important to ensure that branches are not completely horizontal as this reduces the sap flow and stops growth.

Therefore, you need to trick the branch by keeping the growing tip (the very end of the branch) untied and free to grow, while the rest of the branch is horizontal.

Train one of the shoots to be the new vertical leader (main trunk), using a bamboo cane to direct the growth. When the leader gets to the desired height for the second tier of branches, cut off the shoot, this will stimulate growth in buds below the cut. These will form then next layer of horizontal branches and the new vertical leader. Repeat this process for the third tier, except do not train a new leader as this is the top tier of branches.



Article kindly supplied by



Kowhai



Sophora tetraptera

When you think of the word 'kowhai' do you think of the plant or the colour?

I'm sure most of us know that kowhai is the Maori word for yellow so it makes sense that the common name for New Zealand's members of the *Sophora* genus is kowhai. The stunning New Zealand native plant is known to kiwis for its beautiful yellow/golden flowers that appear in early spring and attract nectar loving birds such as the tui and kereru (wood pigeon). These flowers are then followed by distinctive pods which contain 4-6 seeds which are also yellow.

Kowhai are a popular plant in the garden, grown not only for the flowers but also for the appealing dainty foliage. Its height and delicate lacy foliage makes it a great garden specimen or shade tree, but it is also commonly found in open forests, coastlines, along banks to stop erosion, in damp or rocky places, in pots or even trained as a bonsai. For best results plant in full sun to part shade in deeply worked organically enriched soil which is free draining and moisture retentive.

There are about 50 species of *sophora* available but our two favorites here at Oderings are:

***Sophora microphylla* 'Dragons Gold'**

An excellent compact bushy plant with fine-textured, bright green leaves with showy lemon-yellow flowers which are borne throughout winter and spring. This is a popular, low maintenance, reliable and easy to grow smaller specimen which is ideal for pots, in the garden or commonly trained as a topiary specimen. 1m x 1.5m.

Sophora tetraptera

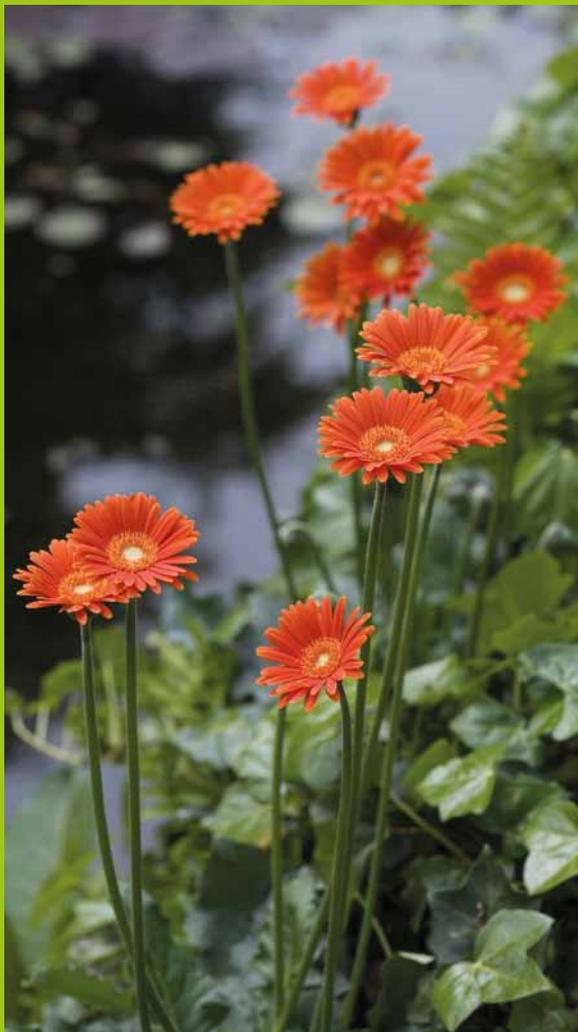
An early flowering kowhai with golden-yellow flowers on an open slender small specimen tree with larger leaves than *microphylla* and an airy graceful growth habit. Grows to 4.5m high x 3m wide.



Sophora Dragons Gold

What's NEW?

Garvinea is a new outdoor hardy gerbera that has been bred for continual flowering with multiple flower heads. These perennial gerbera's will continually perform well in the NZ garden situation; they are drought resistant, frost hardy to -5 degrees and are hardy to excess water – *what else can you ask for in a Gerbera?*



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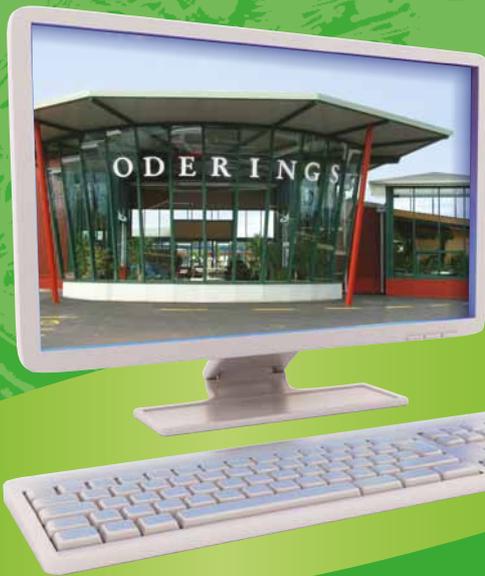
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