

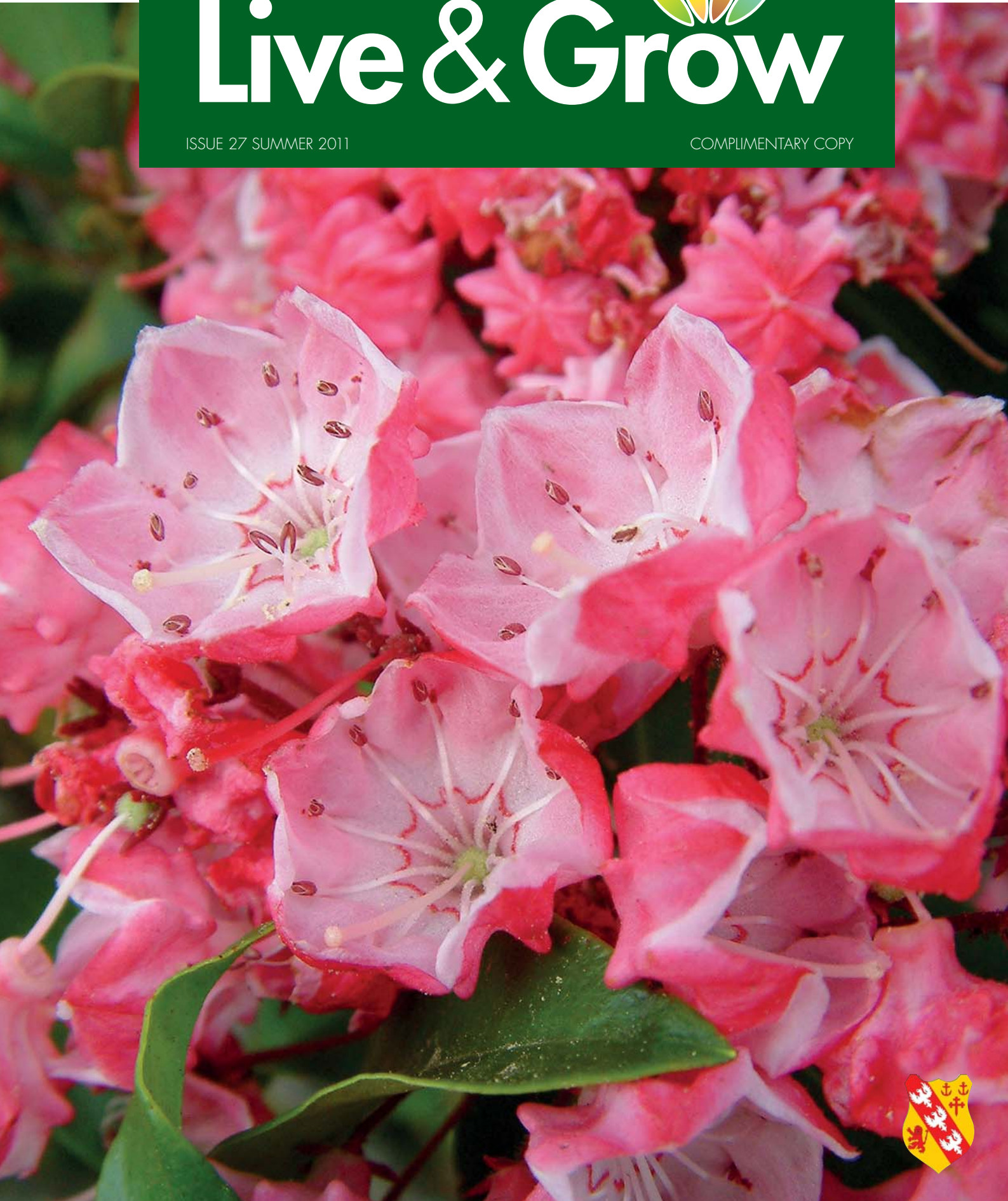
ODERINGS

The First Name In Good Gardens

Live & Grow

ISSUE 27 SUMMER 2011

COMPLIMENTARY COPY



NEW NAPIER STORE | WHAT'S NEW | TOMATO DOCTOR



Agapanthus Streamline



Agapanthus Sarah



Agapanthus Tinkerbell

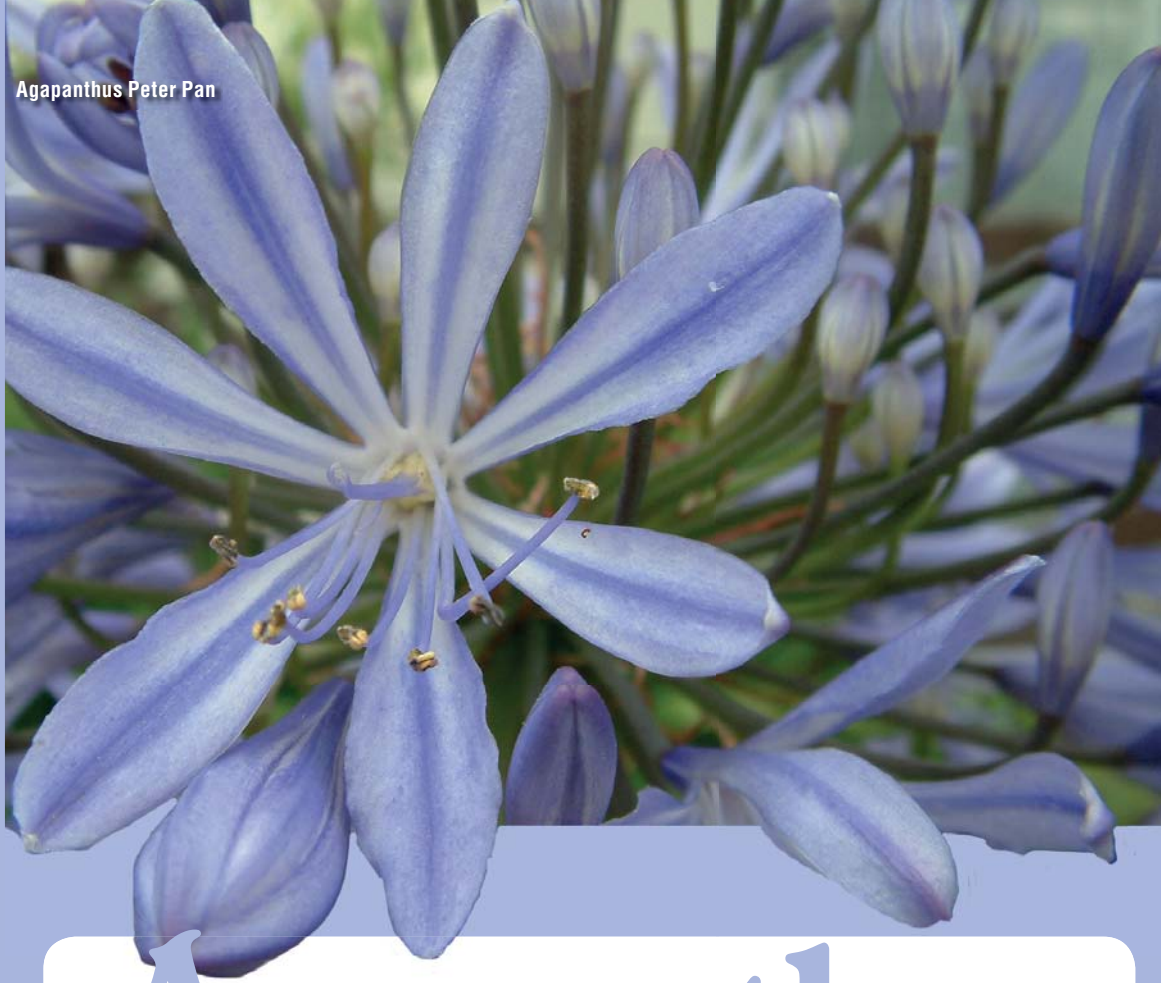


Agapanthus Orientalis Blue



Agapanthus Seafoam

Agapanthus Peter Pan



Agapanthus

We all know of agapanthus,

but generally unless we have a hot dry spot that nothing will grow in the agapanthus is often overlooked, which is a shame since they are one of the most easily cared for plants for a sunny spot. They say that pictures paint a thousand words and in the case of the agapanthus I wholeheartedly agree, the flowers of this plant are just beautiful. I think we are often put off this plant since we see it so regularly in commercial properties or in council roundabouts where it has often been trodden on and have had all kinds of other abuse thrown at these little beauties, but with a little care and having no feet to stomp and flatten their foliage, the agapanthus really is a plant you should consider planting in your garden.

Orientalis Blue - rich blue flowers above long sturdy stems make a bold statement reaching 1.2m high with foliage of 60cm high and wide.

Peter Pan - bright blue flowers on rounded flower heads in summer. A delightful clump forming habit with fine strap-like mid green foliage on a dwarf plant reaching 30cm high and wide.

Tinkerbell - a dwarf variety with unique finger-like foliage of variegated white and light green. Dainty clusters of violet-blue flowers appear on slender upright stems of this evergreen plant that reaches 40cm high and wide.

I just adore the dwarf species which flower in abundance and can be scattered in with your bedding borders or made into a small feature border all on their own. However, the larger growing varieties make an excellent backdrop especially when they send up their large majestic, colourful flowers and brighten up the summer garden. Agapanthus really are a plant that can withstand and even flourish with little or no water especially once they are established, so if you generally get water restrictions in summer or have a hot, dry, sunny spot, agapanthus should be given a try in your garden or pots.

Seafoam - Large growing variety with strong dark green broad foliage and dainty flower heads of pure white on flower spikes reaching 1.2m high, on a plant that reaches 70cm high and wide.

Streamline - features long elegant stems bearing rounded flower heads of mauve-blue in many flowered umbels in summer. This clump forming perennial thrives with neglect and grows to 60cm tall and wide.

Sarah - This is a dwarf agapanthus with mid green foliage and soft lilac blue flowers marked with a deeper blue throat. Great for mass planting in a border growing just 40cm high and wide.

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Specials on-line

ODERINGS

The First Name In Good Gardens

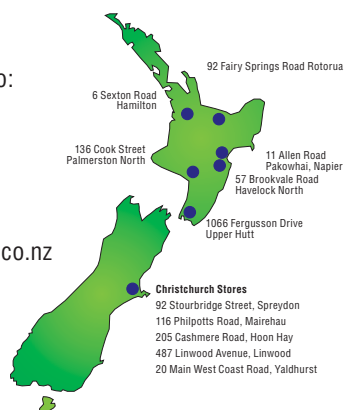
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Send any comments to:

Oderings Nurseries

P.O Box 33-125,
Christchurch 8244.

Email: info@oderings.co.nz



Cover Shot: *Kalmia Latifolia*



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Michelia page 16



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Mimulus

bedding BEAUTIES

Digging In

with Daniel



Daniel Hart
Havelock North

I'm guessing that after so many issues of *Oderings Live & Grow* you can tell that I have a real love and passion for bedding plants. Beds of suitable plants are the most effective way of getting the maximum amount of colour possible into a garden setting. One of my many jobs is finding new and exciting varieties to pass on to you, our loyal customer, but often there are a bunch of varieties of spring and summer flowering bedding plants that are unknown and therefore overlooked. In this issue I am going to cover some bedding varieties that you probably have not planted before, but I feel so confident that if you plant these once and give them a try they will likely become a one of your favourites that you will plant year after year.

Cosmos

These need little attention and are easy to grow in a hot, dry, sunny spot. These tall colourful plants are an excellent background bedding and the flowers can be cut and used for indoor floral arrangements. Plant close together to avoid staking, and then the plants will support each other. Cosmos come in a bright array of colours.

Godetia

One of the most beautiful bedding plants you will find. Once you plant these little charmers you will be bound to make them a feature in your garden year after year. In the South Island they will grow to around 30cm tall, but in the North can get to 40-50cm; to keep them compact pinch out the growing tips while they are young to encourage them to bush up. The single blooms come in a mix of lovely pinks and white, simply stunning. They prefer full sun to part shade in moderately dry soil. (South Island only, sold out in the North sorry).

Linaria

An adaptable, colourful dainty annual in colours pinks, purples, yellow, and white. Plants grow to a height of 20-30cm with spikes of small, delicate, snapdragon-like flowers. Linaria prefer full sun to semi-shade.

Livingstone Daisy

A lot of you will know this name but have you tried to grow the plant?

Livingstone daisy is a top performer for the hottest

and driest parts of any garden or pots. The bright beautiful flowers open with the sun and when planted en masse are sensational. The picture here is of some our Hamilton store planted in their garden a few seasons ago - just imagine this bright show stopper in your garden.

Viscaria

Wow, what a stunner. The blue and rose colours are our most popular, and you can see why from the picture, but they tend to be a little lower growing than the mixed colours. Viscaria is a great garden performer that is charming in for garden beds and borders

Coreopsis

This is an absolute must for the garden or pots in hot dry areas. The exquisite double bright, golden-yellow flowers smother the entire plant throughout summer and autumn, growing 20-30cm.

Mimulus

Wanting something for shade, but but maybe want to spice up your garden and try something different to begonias or impatiens? Mimulus have a beautiful mix of bright solid colours. They provide great garden vigour on an compact plant of 15-20cm.

Bacopa

This is a plant that once you try it, you will never look back. This little ground-hugging perennial is available in blue or white and smothers its foliage in tiny florets throughout spring, summer, autumn and even in winter if in a warm sunny spot. It's Ideal for hanging baskets or at the front of a border, trailing over pots or wall and banks.



Godetia



Viscaria Rose Angel



Bacopa White



Viscaria Blue Angel



Cosmos Mixed



Cosmos White



Bacopa Blue



Linaria



Coreopsis



Livingstone Daisy



Oderings new store in NAPIER

Our wholesale production at Oderings in Havelock North nursery is now at full capacity producing over one million packs of bedding plants plus veggies and half a million potted colour plants for all our Oderings North Island stores per year. Year after year I have been expanding the wholesale department, filling up every nook and cranny available and have quickly been running out of land and growing space to achieve my production goals.

In late August 2011 Oderings Nurseries Christchurch Ltd purchased the land and assets of Andersons Nurseries at 11 Allen Road, Pakowhai which was formally a successful house-plant growing facility established in 1889. This 1.3 hectare property was particularly appealing for Oderings because one of our secrets to success has always been the growing and selling of our own plants. The new Allen Road site has over 5,000 square metres of green house room so this became a ideal fit for us.

The new Oderings site is located on the corner of Allen and Pakowhai roads just back from the Napier to Hastings expressway traffic lights. This new Oderings store has an undeniable relaxing but rural atmosphere and is within easy travelling distance from Napier or Hastings and is only 3km from Taradale.

One of Oderings biggest assets is our fantastic and friendly staff. I can't say enough good things about both my new Napier staff and my Havelock North staff who have outdone themselves with their loyalty and hard work this year. Whether it be holding down the fort in Havelock North or helping out on the new site they have been absolutely superb.

Here is a sneak peak at the new store which opens on the 9th of December. You can view the completed shots after we open at www.oderings.co.nz

Daniel Hart



From left to right, Rachael, Daniel and Vanessa.

I would like to introduce Vanessa Walmsley, she is our new Napier branch manager and has worked for Oderings for over seven years. Vanessa is very knowledgeable, hardworking and would have to be one of the bubbliest, friendliest people I know. Vanessa is joined by her assistant manager who is one of my star ex-apprentices Rachael Palleson, and a new team of friendly experienced people to help you achieve the gardens of your dreams. We open on Friday the 9th of December, come check us out, we have heaps of opening specials and you will love the laid back rural scenery, friendly knowledgeable staff and relaxed atmosphere. Like all of our Oderings stores, at Napier you will find we have everything you could possibly want and need for your garden and beyond.



What will be the shop



Carpark underway



Shop floor prep



Bedding Bench



Garden Centre in progress



What will be the Garden Centre



Some of the Building Boys.



Entrance

THE MAGIC OF NEEM



Oderings offer a fantastic product called Wally's Neem Tree Granules. It contains organic properties that provide insect control, which not only makes plants healthier, but also reduces soil insects such as root mealy bugs, root nematodes, grass grub, carrot flies, psyllids and gall.

It can be used at the base of tomato plants keeping most problems of whitefly and psyllids at bay. When applied to cabbages it was found to combat black aphids and caterpillar damage (Note: Worms are not affected nor is other soil life, only the pests are killed. There is also no tainting of your food). Oderings staff and management swear by this product and use it when planting any vegetables or seedlings.

As the granules breakdown, the Neem properties are absorbed through the roots of the plants, helping keep them healthier and pest free through a trans-location action. Neem granules can be used to advantage on tall trees and bushes where spraying is difficult. The granules are a first line of defense against foliage-attacking insects and should be sprinkled between trunk and drip line.

For use in containers, sprinkle a tablespoon (dependant on the size of the container) of this product into the potting mix at the time of

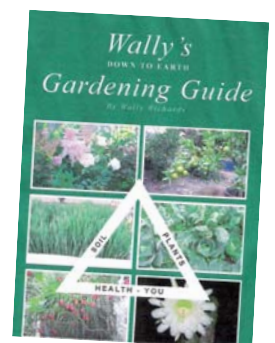
planting. With existing pots, or when using in the garden, place the product on the surface and cover with a little extra mix, this stops the product going mouldy as it breaks down. The Neem product is effective for several months in pots (estimated at about four to six months), while in the garden it should be renewed one to three monthly. When planting or sowing seeds, work the granules into the top 10cm (likewise around plants you wish to protect), reapplying at a 6-8 week intervals while the plants are maturing. Neem also doubles as an excellent soil conditioner and food source.

Neem is especially good for combatting grass grub. Sprinkle granules over a recently mown lawn at the rate of 50-100 grams per square metre, ensuring that the areas where damage has occurred are especially treated as the adult females lay their eggs back where they emerged. Water the product in well.



This organic product is a 'must have' for your garden. It is economic, has a low cost and will keep your garden and plants in high health.

Thanks to Wally Richards for this information from his book 'Wally's Down To Earth Gardening Guide' \$27.49. Neem Granules available in two sizes \$11.29 for 750grams or \$21.49 for 1.8kg.



Minty Fresh



COMMON MINT

This really needs no introduction. It is a popular herb used for an array of culinary uses and has a fantastic fragrance. Try my Mum's yummy mint sauce recipe, it's so simple and delicious. Take six stems from your mint plant, then wash and strip the leaves. Chop finely and crush leaves then put into a small bowl, sprinkle two dessertspoons of white sugar, add boiling water (enough to melt sugar), add half a cup of malt vinegar. Yummy.

We all know of mint, and those of us who have grown it before know how simple it is to have a fresh, cheap and continuous supply from the garden.

Mint is from the *Mentha* family and has many different varieties to choose from for both culinary and medicinal purposes. Many of us know the common mint which is used in mint sauce or chewing gum, spearmint that is used in toothpaste, peppermint used for after dinner mints or for indigestion problems but Odeurs also offer other varieties.

Most mint plants can be invasive - meaning that unless they are restricted when planted they can take over that part of the garden. When planting mint, plant into a larger pot or PB Bag and then plant into the ground; this way the roots stay cool and are restricted to growing only as large as the container they are in. Mint needs moist soil in summer so by planting it in the ground you also will ensure a healthy, thriving plant.

Mint is generally dormant in the winter, try not to let the plants get too wet at this time of year as the plants may rot.

Every year you should feed your mint plant with a general garden fertiliser, and then every two to three years you can divide your plant into thirds and then replant to re-energise the plant.



MINT GREEN PEA

A strong flavour, great for sauces, teas, drinks and in salads. Very hardy.



MINT SPEARMINT

(*Mentha spicata*)

Culinary herb with wonderfully fragrant foliage. Great for flavouring fruit desserts, cold drinks, salads and sauces.



MINT PEPPERMINT

(*Mentha piperita* Peppermint)

Spreading perennial with mid-green oval toothed leaves with a distinctive peppermint taste. Purple flowers are borne in spring. Use leaves fresh or dried in desserts, fruit salads, potato salads and in herbal teas.



MINT APPLE MINT VARIEGATED

(*Mentha Rotundifolia* Variegata)

Cream variegated leaves have a mild apple flavour. Produces white flowers.

ORDERINGS

Christmas Giftware



Mosaic Bowls & Vases

New seasons range, priced from **\$19.99each**



Hanging Coloured Glass Bottle T-light holders

From **\$7.99each**



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Cute and available in 3 designs, priced from **\$34.99**



Poppy Wall Art

Plus many more designs and colours to choose from (excluding Upper Hutt store). Priced from **\$54.99**



Flower Magnets

Six designs to choose from, **\$4.99 each**



Soy Candles

Individually boxed with five delicious flavours to choose from, 30 hours burn time.

\$14.99each



Beginners Italian Cheese Making Kit

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Augie Alligator

Dustpan and Brush Set

Plus many more new and exciting kids gardening range, priced from

\$14.99



New Madame Plume

from The Aromatherapy Co

Priced from **\$5.99**

New Scullys Gardeners Therapy Range

Since 1992 the Scully family from Bulls has been producing high quality body, bath and home products. Scullys hand finished products are made as naturally as possible using the finest ingredients and essential oils from New Zealand and around the world.

Priced from

\$9.99



Victorian Garden Range

Includes magnets, mugs, memo pads, t-light holders and many more (excludes Cashmere, Upper Hutt and Rotorua Stores). Priced from

\$6.99each



What's New



Calipetite

They say good things come in small packages and these dainty new dwarf Calibrachos are just that. Their compact nature and prolific flowering from spring right through to autumn offer a wonderful big splash of colour in any garden. With a choice of Five bold colours – red, blue, yellow, white and rose – this is one little plant to look out for this summer. These little beauties are just perfect for hanging baskets, pots, window boxes and the garden and will be available in store January 2012.



Calibrachoa Calipetite Red



Calibrachoa
Calipetite
Blue



Calibrachoa
Calipetite
White



Calibrachoa
Calipetite
Yellow



Calibrachoa
Calipetite
Rose



PRESENTS



www.tuigarden.co.nz

Joseph Bentley is a range of traditional garden tools admired for its heritage look and feel of quality.

These traditional stainless steel garden tools are driven by design and function. The tools boast carefully finished solid wooden handles with polished stainless steel heads.

Now available at Oderings!

RRP from \$14.99



SINCE 1895

Colour grows all summer long with these fabulous new varieties

Mystic Dahlia Series

This contemporary range of Dahlias is just right for today's gardens. These beauties are set apart from other Dahlia by their fashionable filigreed mahogany to black foliage topped with the most vivid blooms. New to the Mystic series this summer is Mystic Wonder featuring deep velvet red blooms on unbelievably black foliage. With a long flowering period and staking not required this series is a true contemporary garden fashion statement.



Joseph Bentley Tools

This gorgeous new range of tools, introduced by Tui, combines traditional style with modern quality. The Joseph Bentley Garden Tool range has a heritage look and feel, we think they'd be lovely as Christmas gifts. The carefully finished solid wooden handles and polished stainless steel heads are almost too gorgeous to get dirty. Look out for the Joseph Bentley Garden Tool range at Oderings.



Sunpatiens

Transform your garden with the new stunning easy-to-grow, easy-to-enjoy SunPatiens®; the revolutionary new hybrid impatiens that love the sun as well as the shade and flaunt brilliant flowers from spring to first frosts. One touch of their thick, large, showy petals is enough to see why these beauties are winning accolades around the world. Eight stunning colours have been released in this series. Use them in containers, baskets or the garden and you'll be blessed with massive flower power and season-long enjoyment.

MYSTIC DAHLIA

Contemporary Garden Fashion

A contemporary range of Dahlia just right for today's gardens. These beauties are set apart from other Dahlia by their fashionable filigreed mahogany to black foliage topped with the most vivid blooms.

New to the Mystic series is Mystic Wonder featuring deep velvet red blooms on unbelievably black foliage.

- Vivid Blooms in a range of fashion colours
- Good vase life
- Black foliage
- Long flowering period
- Staking not required



Wonder



Illusion



Dreamer



Haze



Enchantment



Dream Seeker



Dream Catcher



Poinsettia

Native to Mexico the botanical name for poinsettia is *Euphorbia pulcherrima* meaning 'very beautiful'. Although many people mistake the vibrant red, pink or white leaves as flowers, they actually are bracts (leaves); the true flowers are the tiny inconspicuous yellow clusters at the top of the plant.

Given the right care poinsettias will retain their vibrant beauty for two to three months and are a festive way to decorate your house this Christmas.

Always place them in a warm, filtered light position (not direct sunlight as this will change the leaves to green). Avoid draughty, cold, air-conditioned rooms as it will encourage them to defoliate. Do not fertilise when your plant is in full bloom, or allow your poinsettia to wilt, watering only when dry. Ideally poinsettias require daytime temperatures of 16 to 22 degrees Celsius and night temperature of around 10 degrees. Once the Christmas beauties have finished flowering the

best thing to do is discard them and buy new ones the following Christmas. But if it is a challenge you are after and you are keen to revive it for another Christmas, then these are the steps you need to take.

When flowering is finished prune to 10cm from the base and place in a shady position. Give it only enough water to prevent the plant from completely drying out. In August re-pot into Odeings Potting Mix and start to water again (only when dry), and feed fortnightly with Liquid Nitrosol.

From September to November the plants require alternating periods of light and darkness. At 5pm each night place your plant into a cupboard or closet and leave it there for a minimum of 12 hours. In the morning bring the plant back out into full light again. This process is required to be done for 60-85 days. If plants are exposed to artificial light when daylight has finished the plant will have leaf and stem growth without the beautiful colour.

If this sounds like too much hard work your local Odeings store will have them every Christmas 'looking very beautiful' for you to take home and enjoy without the fuss.



Little Shop of HORRORS



When I think of Venus flytraps I think of the movie *Little Shop of Horrors*, but don't be frightened, unlike the movie where the plant is portrayed as a giant man-eater craving blood, the Venus flytrap provides a fun and safe way to help control pesky houseflies this summer.

Flytraps (*Dionaea*) are the most popular and easiest to grow of all the carnivorous plants and feed on insects by digesting the nutrients from their bodies. The tempting colours of the reds and greens along with its enticing fragrance lures its victims into its waiting jaws. When small trigger hairs are brushed past the jaws snap together to imprison its prey and then the plant secretes a fluid to absorb its meal. This process takes 6-15 days after which the jaws re-open, patiently waiting for more unsuspecting victims. If the prey is too large and the trap does not re-open, this trap will die and decay. However, a single trap can usually capture insects three to four times before it stops functioning. Traps that are artificially closed (by fingers) are distinguished by the plant and will re-open within a day, but remember the trap will only open three to four times so avoid the temptation of putting your fingers in the trap. How a Venus flytrap distinguishes between curious fingers and genuine prey is a mystery.

Grow in a sunny window and provide plenty of water by leaving the pot in a saucer filled with water in the warmer months, this also helps provide the humidity that they need at this time of year. These easy care houseplants never need feeding and prefer a nutrient deficient media; live sphagnum moss (Magic Moss) is recommended to grow carnivorous plants successfully. Remember Venus flytraps can be dormant during winter where growth will cease entirely, and at this stage you should reduce watering until spring.



EGMONT

Quality Gardening



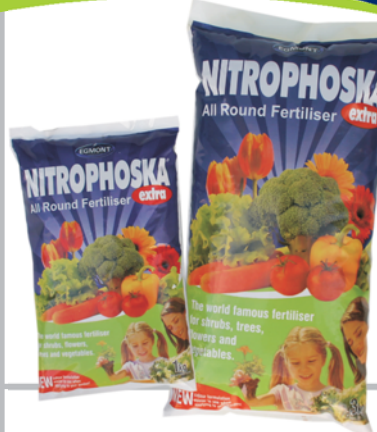
Beat A Bug

The natural bug control for your garden including vegetables!

A NATURAL 2 in 1 INSECT SPRAY

which will kill and repel common garden insects and contains plant food in a ready to use form.

The three main ingredients **Garlic, Chilli** and **Pyrethrum** are lethal to insects but very safe to use.



Nitrophoska

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Nitrophoska EXTRA has all the essential nutrients required for optimum plant growth.

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for Happy Cats!



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- NATURAL mineral.
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- Breeders Choice.
- Litter and Tray in one! Just slip cover back on and Dispose!

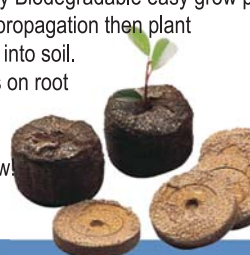


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The totally Biodegradable easy grow pot. Ideal for propagation then plant complete into soil.

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EGMONT



Michelia Bubbles



Michelia Gracipies



Michelia Mixed Up Miss



Michelia
Mixed Up Miss



Michelia Yunnanensis



Michelia Figo



Michelia

One of my favourite aspects of working in retail is talking to you, our customers. A tricky question that is often thrown our way is people asking for a recommendation for an evergreen tree, that will flower and make a lovely feature.

Most people feel restricted to the evergreen magnolias or a slower growing New Zealand native like the lovely pohutukawa, however, one of my absolute favourites which is often overlooked when making recommendations is Michelia.

The Michelia are a small group of trees and shrubs that belong to the magnolia family, but unlike most of the magnolia family the Michelia are usually evergreen. Michelia have it all - beautiful glossy green leaves, a fantastic shape with a neat and tidy habit, sizes ranging from 2-10m all of which you can prune to shape. However, my favourite feature of Michelia would easily be the beautiful flowers that are highly fragrant with a beautiful perfume which is especially noticeable at night in late winter, early spring and sometimes into the summer months.

The only negative aspect with a Michelia is they are slightly frost tender and the growing tips will get burnt with frost each year, however, as long as it is not too severe a frost they will bounce away

quickly again in spring and you may not even notice that they have had a little frost damage. I recommend you cover the plant against frost while young and once it becomes an established tree you won't notice any damage. Michelia can be grown as a specimen tree in the garden or lawn, in pots or as a hedge. Plant Michelia in rich, slightly acidic soil which is free draining, and feed two to three times a year with Oderings Camellia, Rhodo & Azalea fertiliser.

The most commonly grown Michelia is **Michelia Figo** which you may also know more commonly as the **Port Wine Magnolia**. This is a smaller growing specimen ideal for pots, as a hedge or as a backdrop shrub in the garden or pots, or trained as a standard, growing to 2m. The brown furry buds burst in spring to clusters of creamy white turning to wine purple flowers in summer. The fragrance is often described as smelling either like banana or port wine, either way they smell delicious.

Michelia Doltsopa is a larger growing specimen which can eventually reach 10m tall. It has loosely petalled creamy white flowers.

Michelia Mixed Up Miss is a hybrid of Doltsopa and Figo, and features violet white buds turning into white and violet scented flowers. It is a nice sized tree growing 3-4m tall over 10 years.

Michelia Yunnanensis is another of my favourites and is a slower growing tree reaching 4-5m with time. The furry brown buds open in winter and spring into an abundance of creamy white blooms that smother the plant. The flowers also feature lovely yellow stamens.

Michelia Velvet and Cream reaches 2-4m tall and is ideal for a hedge or planted in a pot.



Conserving Water

living with water restrictions

More and more cities are being put on water restrictions each year and conserving water is becoming a important topic amongst our customers who want their gardens to perform at their best. Many of us use irrigation regularly, or expect to be able to water the garden when we want, but with the water restrictions in place it means we need to work smarter to help conserve this precious resource.

Are you using more water than you need?

To test your water pressure hold a one litre jug under your tap and time how long it takes to fill. If it fills in less than seven seconds you are using more water than you need and should turn your water pressure down.

What type of soil do you have?

When you know your soil type you can adjust your watering to suit these conditions. If your soil is dry, compacted or clay, water for five minutes, leave for ten then water for another five; this gives the maximum soil penetration and minimises water run off. For hot and dry soils you need to add water storage products to help it maintain its moisture.

What type of water storage or mulches to use?

Mulches are used on top of the soil and are generally used for one of two reasons; to suppress weeds or conserve moisture. Mulches include leaves, peat moss, sphagnum moss, bark or wood

chips, pea straw and even stones. However if you are looking to incorporate watering storage into your soil to get the maximum water retention you should look at one of the following...

Peat - is a natural product and should be incorporated with all acid loving plants when planting. This product absorbs any water that is applied around the roots and retains it as the plant is getting established.

Sphagnum Moss - is a long lasting natural product with a low PH, and is ideal for veggie gardens, adding to pots or on top as a mulch, it is also ideal for hanging baskets and for use when planting the general garden.

Water Storage Crystals - help plants survive dry weather conditions and are excellent if you are infrequent with your watering or you are away on holiday. The crystals absorb water and end up hundreds of times their original weight, the plants then draw on the water as they need it and whenever you water the crystals replenish themselves.

SaturAid - is a granular soil wetter that makes the water soak directly to the root zone for the strongest, healthy growth in garden beds, pots or lawns. SaturAid works immediately so watering rainfall and fertilising are more effective, even in hard to wet sandy, clay or compacted soils.

Other easy tips to conserve moisture

- * Check all taps and irrigation for leaks, and try water timers if you use irrigation so you don't forget to turn it off again.
- * Water low and slow, this means water the roots of the plants as much as possible and not just the foliage.
- * Set your lawnmower on a higher setting to stop your lawn drying out and aerate your lawn once a year to help water reach the roots.
- * Recycling water is easy to do. You can get it direct from the gutter or save water from your washing machine and give it to areas of the garden that need more water or use it on the lawns.
- * Wash the car on the lawn so the water run off is being used to water the lawn.
- * Water first thing in the morning or last thing at night and only water when necessary, generally more plants die from overwatering rather than under, especially when they are established.

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Join in store or online at www.oderings.co.nz



The Tomato DOCTOR

The key to successful tomatoes (or any edible crop for that matter) is protection and prevention against disease and insects.

We all put in a lot of hard work when we plant our tomatoes but now is not the time to become complacent!

I grow buckets of tomatoes every year and I swear by Wally's Secret Tomato Food with Neem; used at four to six weekly intervals it keeps my tomatoes pest free (which is what the Neem is for) and also keeps the plants healthy. The other product that is essential is a spray called Copper (which is a natural fungicide) and you should use this every three to four weeks. There are plenty of other products that you can use as well but with any edible crop, in my opinion, Neem Granules are a 'must have' to keep your plants pest free. Problems that occur with tomatoes are normally from an insects, fungus or from fluctuating temperatures or watering. If you can't match up what's wrong with your fruit to the tomato doctor or if you are still unsure bring in some of your problem fruit/ leaves and we will be sure to help you.

Weather or Fertiliser related problems

TOMATO FRUIT SPLITTING

Usually caused by changes in watering practices. Tomatoes become accustomed to the amount of water they receive; when watering is increased over a short time span it causes a growth spurt. The fleshy tissue of the fruit will grow much more rapidly than the skin, causing the skin to split. The fruit is still able to be eaten but the splits will make the plants more susceptible to viral infections. When growing tomatoes water regularly. If this is an ongoing problem you might want to purchase varieties that are resistant to cracking such as Viroso Improved or Big Beef.



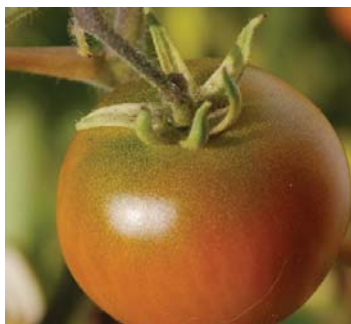
ROLLING OF OLDER LEAVES

Caused by fluctuating temperatures. Mulching plants helps control the soil temperature.



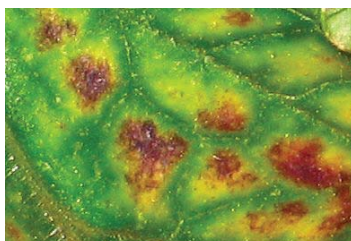
TOPS OF TOMATOES ARE GREEN

Caused by excess sunlight, being too dry and too much potash. Apply Sulphate of Ammonia and water regularly.



MAGNESIUM DEFICIENCY

Leaves are yellow between the veins. Feed plants with Tui Tomato Fertiliser or Wally's Secret Tomato Food. If it still continues you may need a supplementary feed of Epsom Salts or Sequestron.



BLOTCHY FRUIT

If your fruit doesn't ripen and has a blotchy appearance there has been too much heat, too little potash and excess watering. Feed plants with Tui Tomato Fertiliser or Wally's Secret Tomato Food. If it still continues you may need a supplementary feed of Sulphate of Potash.



BLOSSOM END ROT

Caused by a calcium deficiency and irregular watering when tomatoes are ripening. Water plants regularly while growing. Add gypsum prior to planting to boost calcium and apply mulch around plants to help with water retention.



SUN SCALD

Causes paper-brown patches on the fruit. This is caused by exposure to bright sunlight. This can be easily prevented by leaving the older leaves on, they provide natural shade for your plants (so don't be tempted to take off the older leaves to help ripen your fruit quickly).



Insects

APHIDS

Plants wilt and often the leaves pucker and are distorted because the aphids suck the sap from the new growth before it opens. The insects live on the underside of the leaves. Spray with any of the following; Target, Mavrik, Carbaryl, Tomato Dust, Confidor or Eco Pest.



MITES

Leaves are mottled and look yellowish and dehydrated. These minute insects live on the undersides of the leaves. Spray with Mite Killer, Mavrik, Success or Guardall.



TOMATO FRUIT WORM

Small caterpillars tunnel holes into the fruit. Spray the plants with Tomato Dust, Mavrik or Carbaryl.



TOMATO PSYLLID

Unfortunately, once you have them you may as well destroy the plants. Personally I would use Target or Confidor but testing so far shows that nothing seems to kill these insects once you have got them. One of our veggie gurus at Oderings believes adding Neem Granules regularly during the growing season is worth a shot. Dispose of and destroy affected plants.



WHITEFLY

Tiny white insects on the undersides of the leaves that when disturbed will fly around. Spray with Target, Confidor, Mavrik, Carbaryl or for an organic fix use Eco Pest.



Fungus

EARLY BLIGHT

Small spots appear on older leaves and there is dark mould present. This is more common in warm weather. Prevent by spraying regularly with Copper, Bravo, Eco Fungicide or Tomato Dust. Dispose of affected plants.



LATE BLIGHT

Irregular brown patches on leaves. This is more serious in wet, humid climates. Prevent by spraying regularly with Copper, Bravo, Greenguard or Tomato Dust. Dispose of affected plants.



BOTRYTIS/GREY MOULD

Leaves, stems and fruit develop a grey brown rot or mould. Spray with Bravo or Greenguard.



LEAF MOULD

Older leaves show yellowing blotches with grey mould under the leaves. Younger leaves show pale circular spots. Spray with Bravo.



VERTICILLIUM WILT/ BACTERIAL WILT

Drying and withering leaves. Do not grow in the same area for more than one year in three. Sterilise soil with Basamid and plant Verticillium resistant varieties such as Big Beef, Grosse Lisse or Roma.



POWDERY MILDEW

Leaves, stems and fruit develop grey powder on the leaves. Use Greenguard, Fungus Fighter or Eco Fungicide.



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