

**ODERINGS**

The First Name In Good Gardens

# Live & Grow

ISSUE 30 AUTUMN/WINTER 2013

COMPLIMENTARY COPY



WHAT'S NEW | GIFTWARE | LAWN EXTRAVAGANZA



Jump Up Orange



Penny Orange



Penny Lane Mix



Jump Up Yellow

Oderings  
*Viola*  
collection



Penny Tinkerbell



Bi Colour Primrose



Penny White



Penny Dark Blue



White Jump Up

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**ODERINGS**

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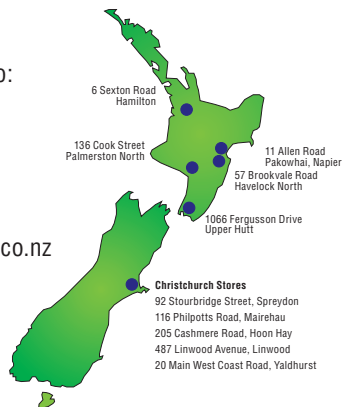
[www.oderings.co.nz](http://www.oderings.co.nz)

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Cover Shot: *Some of the 6th Generation Oderings.*

# Digging In

with Daniel



Daniel Hart  
Havelock North

# THE Flirtatious

# Viola

In the autumn at Oderings the hard working production department seems to have a continuous menu of mainly pansies and polyanthus. I want to remind you of another old favourite and a close relative of the pansy the viola.

The difference between these two siblings is that pansies grow to a height of 25cm; they have large flowers and are very showy, whereas violas are petite reaching only 15cm tall and they have smaller flowers but a lot more of them, and have a secret weapon that pansies do not, maximum flower power. Viola 'Delft Blue' is a brand new

variety for 2013 and portrays all the cool colours of winter, offering something beautiful, different and unique for your garden. It has medium to large flowers for a viola, which vary in colour, with a wash of deep mauve-purple fading to white, with black whiskers and a bright yellow eye. This new pansy has been bred to flower nonstop. It has

a compact and uniform growth habit and is very hardy. In Christchurch this viola will even bounce back from being buried by snow.

## Growing

Violas thrive in sun or part shade. Good drainage is essential to growing healthy violas. If they get too much water on a regular basis they will become susceptible to damping off fungi, so a careful watering programme and excellent drainage is necessary for success. 'Oderings Potting Mix' is perfect for pansies and regular spraying is important to prevent powdery mildew and black spot establishing over the wetter winter months.

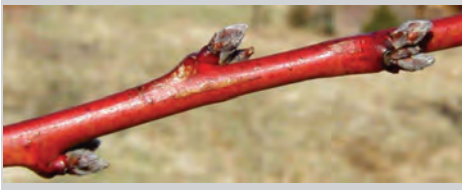




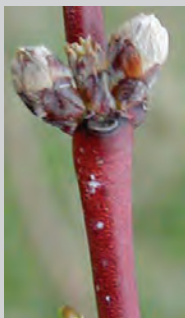
# PREVENTING Leaf Curl

Leaf curl is a fungal disease found mainly on peaches, nectarines, and other stone fruit in spring. Unfortunately it's too late to fix the problem by then. As with all good gardening practices prevention is the key. Leaf curl winters over on the plant so to eradicate the disease you must spray at three critical times.

**1** When the plant is dormant during winter, i.e. it has no leaves, spray it with Lime Sulphur, Liquid Copper or Champion Copper.



**2** Spray for the second time just before bud burst, i.e. when you see green swellings along the branches, spray with Champion Copper or Liquid Copper.



**3** Apply the third spray after the petals fall leaving tiny fruit behind, again using Liquid Copper or Champion Copper.



If like me you are meticulous about spraying when you are meant to but still have one or two trees that are affected with this disease then here is a useful tip. I was speaking to a work mate and discussing this problem and she recommended I use Magic Mulch. This product is a combination of nature's two most beneficial growth aids – sphagnum moss and seaweed. I incorporated Magic Mulch into the soil around my two problem plants and they have thrived (yes, like a miracle they no longer have leaf curl). You can go a step further and add either 'Ocean

Solids' or 'Ocean Organics' every three months to stop the leaf curl coming. Both of these products provide the nutrients and minerals from the sea. These products along with my 'Neem Granules' help me maintain my organic garden keeping our 30 fruit trees, and our huge vegetable patch insect and pest free.

If you have problem with leaf curl or just want to have higher health plants and fewer insect problems use any or all of these products this year.





Munstead Wood



Lavender Pinocchio



Top Shelf



Jacqueline du Pre



Bronze Baby



The Alnwick Rose

# Roses

## NEW TO ODERINGS

With another rose season just around the corner, it is time for rose fanciers to start planning which rose varieties to plant this year. Whether starting a new rose garden, replacing old roses, or expanding an existing collection, it pays to get in early with orders to avoid disappointment. It's great fun deciding on new varieties, and these days there is such an immense range to choose from the task can be daunting, of course new doesn't necessarily mean better, so try a mixture of new, and tried and true.

### Six new varieties to Oderings this season are:

**Bronze Baby** (patio) – shapely double flowers of deep golden bronze fading paler.

**Jacqueline du Pre** (bush) - dainty, blush-white, semi-double flowers are cupped at first, later opening to golden stamens, with a light, musky fragrance.

**Munstead Wood** (bush) - light crimson buds open to a very deep velvety crimson while the outer petals remain rather lighter in colour. There is a strong 'Old Rose' fragrance with a fruity note.

**Top Shelf** (bush) - a very unusual coloured rose. The underside of the petal is a deep tarnished copper and the upper petal has

shades of terracotta. The bud is dark and as the flower opens it exhibits a wonderful two-tone effect. These blooms are set off by extraordinary dark glossy foliage almost "holly like" in appearance.

**Summer Gold** (patio) - abundant, yellow, cupped old fashioned flowers and attractive foliage, mid to strong fragrance.

**The Alnwick Rose** (English) - rich pink, cup shaped buds gradually open to a deeply cupped flower developing into a cup of a soft pink which is paler at the outer edges. It has a Old Rose fragrance with just a hint of raspberry.

# What's New

## Zanzibar Gem

Oderings would like to introduce you to the new houseplant Zanzibar Gem – the indestructible plant that thrives on neglect!

If you have been searching for a great indoor plant that not only looks great, but also needs only minimal care, then our brand new Zanzibar Gem™ (Zamioculcas zamiifolia) could be just what you are looking for. Available for the first time in New Zealand, you can enjoy all the benefits of having a beautiful ornamental plant, without all the hassle of constant maintenance.

A plant of distinguished features, the Zanzibar Gem™ stands out from its counterparts with its unique spiral structure and high gloss, deep green foliage, growing 60-90cm tall. Awarded House Plant of the Year the Zanzibar Gem™ is resilient against drought, neglect, dry air, low light and bugs! Impressively, the Zanzibar Gem™ also acts as a bio-filtration system that works to purify the air. This makes it extremely appealing for office environments, retail complexes, retirement centres, hospitals, schools and homes.

These plants will continue to survive, even if you forget to water them for months at a time! The Zanzibar Gem™ prefers to be on the dry side and too much watering can result in the leaves turning yellow. The plants have potato-like tubers under the soil that store the water and allow the plant to survive extremely long periods without a drink. Watering once a month is plenty.

The Zanzibar Gem™ is perfectly at home in low light situations, meaning you can enjoy the benefits of having appealing plants and clean air in any room.

Original urban garden blogging male, Mr Brown Thumb of Chicago, writes...

*"I've often read that after a nuclear holocaust the only thing to survive would be roaches. I wouldn't be surprised to discover that the ZZ plant can withstand such an event and be one of two things to survive. I don't think it is*



*possible to kill a ZZ plant but if you kill a ZZ plant maybe you should take up computers or crocheting as a hobby and leave house plants alone".*

### Here are some tips for growing your own Zanzibar Gem™.

- Choose an indoor spot that is not in direct sunlight - the plant does best in partial or filtered sun. The Zanzibar Gem™ will survive in the dark but it will not continue to grow.
- Allow the plant to dry out well between waterings. Watering once a month is plenty except in winter when it requires less water.
- Do not use leaf shine, as the leaves are naturally shiny and do not like a lot of chemicals. If necessary, wipe them with a damp cloth.
- Make sure that the pot and soil you use have good drainage.
- Add a slow release fertilizer to the pot during spring for the best results.

You can find this amazing plant in any of our Oderings retail stores, or contact us on email at [info@oderings.co.nz](mailto:info@oderings.co.nz) if you would like to order one via email.



## Garlic

Garlic is a natural antibiotic and imparts such a wonderful flavour to so many dishes. It can be grown easily in the garden or in containers but it requires good drainage.

To get the best results buy only certified cloves from your garden centre, don't use those you brought for

cooking from the supermarket. Garlic is traditionally planted on the shortest day, and harvested on the longest. Plant each clove of garlic 5-8cm below the soil surface about 15cm apart, making sure the pointed end is facing upwards. It is important to keep the area weed-free and well-watered during the summer.

When harvesting, make sure you dig the garlic up, do not rip it out of the ground. If you lift garlic too early you will have small cloves, whereas if they are left too long they will burst. Once you have dug up your garlic, brush off any soil clinging to the bulbs; allow three to four weeks of drying in a well-ventilated situation, or in dry, shady spot outside away from direct sunlight. When the tops and roots have dried, cut them off.

**AVAILABLE IN MAY**

# Indestructible



Aloe vera



Bergenia



African Violet

An indestructible plant to me is a plant that once added to the right spot to the garden will thrive with little to no help from us. No plant is truly indestructible, but if you take a little time to find the right plant for the right position you should need to do little else except trim it once a year and maybe fertilise it occasionally to keep it looking lush and vibrant.

## Indestructible Sun Lovers

If you have a sunny spot that is hard to fill, try one of the below, for a sure fix.

**Agapanthus** - there is a good reason that agapanthus are used a lot by councils and malls in plantings; they are tough, handle full sun and hot dry soil from an early age.

**Lavenders** - I'll let you in on my secret to keep your lavenders from going woody and leggy, if you cannot trim the foliage with scissors you have left it too long to chop them back. Lavenders will flower for months on end, attract bees to pollinate your garden and provide a heavenly scent.

**Choisya** - sun or shade the choisya will perform with an abundance of flowers throughout spring, summer and autumn. If you let it grow naturally it will get 2m x 2m, however, you can train the choisya to become an easy care hedge or topiary.

**Aloe vera** - indoors or out the aloe vera is a great structural plant to have in the garden or in pots and containers. The trick with any succulent

type plant is to water it less throughout the autumn, this way the plant does not have as much water stored in its foliage in the winter, reducing the risk of frost affecting the plant.

**Marlborough Rock Daisy** - I simply love this plant, its frost hardy once established and easily handles drought, sun or semi-shade. The silver foliage is the ideal contrast to bring out the colours and textures from the surrounding plants, not to mention the flowers which have their own delightful appeal.

**Griselinia** - a favourite as a hedge or screen, the griselinia has lush green vibrant foliage. Once established they need little to no water to survive. I recommend a light trim when first planting and then once a year to keep them bushy.

**Ceanothus** - available in groundcover or medium to large sized shrubs. This picture is from my own driveway garden, all the care it receives is a heavy trim once a year and that's it. It is an amazing, easy care, hardy plant.

## Indestructible Full to Semi-Shade Lovers

Shade need not be boring, dull or lifeless when you know that there is a world of colour and foliage awaiting your choice.

**Hydrangea** - the hydrangea is an amazing plant with non-stop flowering through summer. The beautiful flowers can be picked for an indoor display or left on the bush for a long plentiful display.

**Chatham Island Forget-me-not** - this is one of my absolute favourite top five shade plants. It thrives in full to partial shade, and produces stunning flowers which brighten up these often dull spots. The only issue I have with these plants is the odd slugs and snails in spring, which is easily avoided by sprinkling slug bait in August and again in October.

**Heuchera** - again one of my top five shade plants. When I think of heucheras I think colour, colour, colour. The toughest thing about heucheras is picking what colours to plant.





Agapanthus



Ceanothus



Fuchsia



Lavender



Ajuga



Hydrangea



Choisya



Pulmonaria



Heuchera



Helleborus



Chatham Island Forget-me-not



Griselinia



Marlborough Rock Daisy

**Pulmonaria** - will add a delightful colour with foliage and flowers to the front of woodland gardens or any shady border.

**Ajuga** - an underestimated plant which pops with colour in the shaded garden. This groundcover is an easy choice for the lovely vibrant blue flowers and green or burgundy foliage.

**Bergenia** - pink or white flowers, green or reddish tinged foliage, the berginia is a clump forming perennial which is quite stunningly pretty.

**Fuchsia** - in baskets, pots or the garden we all know and recognise their dancing, showy flowers. Plant in full to partial shade.

**Helleborus** - another one of my top five shaded plants. The showy flowers appear in winter and carry on into late spring. Helleborus can also be planted into sun but it tends to burn their leaves and cause a bit of discolouration.



Sansevieria

## Indestructible Houseplants

If you are an avid killer of houseplants here are some fail safe choices or great gift ideas.

**Sansevieria** - the 'Mothers In Laws Tongue' is an easy care plant, do not plant into a pot too big as this makes it too easy to overwater them. This is a great modern looking indoor plant that will add structure.

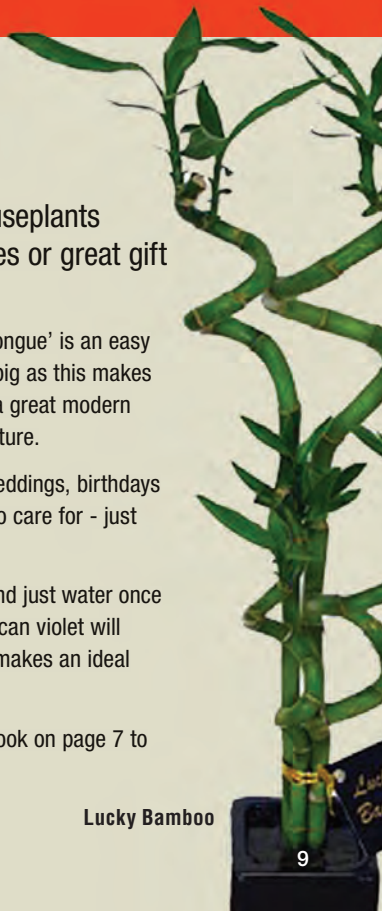
**Lucky Bamboo** - great gift idea for weddings, birthdays or Christmas. See how easy they are to care for - just keep the pot full of water, that's it.

**African Violet** - keep in a light area and just water once a week or if it starts to droop. The African violet will flower on and off all year long, it also makes an ideal office plant.

**Zanzibar** - a new plant this autumn, look on page 7 to read more.



Zanzibar



Lucky Bamboo

# Giftware

## Aprons

You could cook up a storm in these gorgeous 'spots and stripes' frilly aprons which are available in pink, red and black.



## Herb Stakes

At last, a great affordable range of metal herb stakes with nine of the most popular herb names.



## The Aromatherapy Company

All stores are now showcasing new products from the Aromatherapy Company with brilliant new fragrances and gorgeous new packaging. Stock may vary from store to store.

## Chic Boot

A Christchurch made boot that is practical, comfortable, stylish and affordable.

Available in a range of colours.



## Ceramics

A fantastic range of indoor flower and houseplant ceramics. A great range to choose from at affordable prices.



Shopping for gifts is easy at Oderings



### Lil Bloom Cards

Small gift tags and cards that grow.  
A way to gift more than paper, a gift that flowers also.  
Brilliant.

### Glass Koru

The new outdoor garden glass koru are beautifully gift boxed making these an excellent gift. Available in two sizes, in vibrant green or blue.



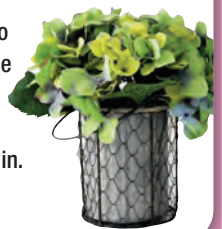
### Mosaics

New range of mosaics in Firecracker red and vibrant Lime Chello. Range includes bowls, vases and urns. Please note that these are not available in Havelock North or Napier stores.



### Artificial Flowers

A delightful range of artificial flowers. Also available in this range are jugs and urns to display these everlasting beauties in.



RETAIL NZ EXCLUSIVE



### Yankee Candle

These candles have long lasting fragrances that are true to life when using this amazing range of legendary American candles and accessories. The hardest part will be deciding which to buy with fragrances like 'Christmas Cookie', 'Fresh Cut Roses' and 'Mango and Salsa'. They will not disappoint.

### Metal Wall Art



It's easy to get inspired with this range of trendy wall art.

EXCLUSIVE



### Outdoor Canvas

Australian artist Lisa Pollock's designs on new outdoor canvas which is waterproof and resistant to ultraviolet light with an aluminium frame. We also have an inspiring range of indoor canvases. These are available at selected stores only.



### Memorial Stones

Sourced by popular demand. Handmade stone memorial plaques and crosses to mark that special loved one in your garden.



EXCLUSIVE

### Garden Signs

Handmade metal signs and hangers for the home and garden. A huge selection available.



Purchase your gifts instore or online at [oderings.co.nz](http://oderings.co.nz)

## Digging In

with Daniel



Daniel Hart  
Havelock North

# LET US EAT Lettuce



Iceberg

The versatile lettuce is an essential part of or an ingredient in culinary dishes worldwide. Lettuce is probably one of the most important, widely used and well-known vegetables, it is versatile and found in common places such as the Kiwi barbecue or in world class restaurants. The Chinese use it as a cooked vegetable. Lettuce does not need to be the silent partner in your home-cooked meals. It is so easy to grow in pots or the garden so you can pick when it is fresh and crisp. When you grow your own vegetables, they just seem to taste better. Lettuce is very nutritious providing vitamins A, B, C, D, E and K plus minerals. Lettuce is very healthy being low in calories (providing you do not do what I do and smother it with salad dressing). Lettuce is very popular with people trying to lose weight and we eat it because it is good for us and tastes great.

These days there are so many decisions to make, do you like your lettuce delicate or crunchy, bitter or sweet, green or red? Did you know red lettuces are better for you than green? This is because the red pigment in the leaves contains small amounts of antioxidants like beta carotene and lutein, as well as having less water content therefore having much higher fibre.

Many other garden centres are selling very cheaply, old varieties that have been around for years. Oderings garden centres sell only F1 hybrid, commercially grown varieties, so that the very

varieties you are growing in your gardens are the same high quality produce that you are buying from the supermarket shelves. Oderings Nurseries do not grow any genetically modified plants. In autumn and winter, we grow varieties that are naturally selected and bred to perform in the cold, making these lettuces perfect for your garden at this time of the year. We also have varieties that are resistant to the Nasonovia aphid. This does not mean that your lettuce is going to be aphid proof, but these varieties make a natural enzyme that the Nasonovia do not like. You may also be affected by other types of aphids commonly found

around New Zealand; these are easy to get rid of with pesticides or warm soapy water. However, as frosts become more prevalent aphids will become less of a problem.

### Growing

Lettuces are easy and very cheap to grow. Even in autumn you can grow good lettuces, but with the cooler seasons there are a few things you need to know first.

Lettuce are very hardy so they will take frost and continue to grow nicely though autumn, but they will be a little slower growing through winter. They like full sun and love alkaline organic enriched soil so when preparing your soil bed, dig in lime fertiliser with a combination of either 'Oderings Total Replenish' or organic compost. After planting, protect from slugs and snails. To combat other bugs put 'Neem Granules' around the base of the plants, these granules are a very effective natural product. Reduce your watering in winter but step it up again in spring.

Even if you have never grown vegetables, lettuces are good to start with. Try some of our autumn lettuce varieties this season they are yummy and good for you.



Cos or Romaine



Gourmet Coral



Drunken Women



Gourmet Oak



Butterhead



Combo

**Cos or Romaine** - grows into a large oval shape and has thick crispy ribs, especially on the outer leaves. It has a fine, tart/bitter herb flavour and is used extensively in Caesar salads.

**Gourmet Oak** - grown for its colourful borders of green and red, this makes an excellent garnish and has a delicate sweet flavour with wonderful texture. Oak leaf lettuces can be cooked, stuffed or served as hearts

**Gourmet Coral** - the starting point for all good salads and with its frilly edges it is the most decorative lettuce. It has an excellent flavour,

which I love in sandwiches. It is sold in a mixture of green and red.

**Butterhead** - without a doubt my favourite lettuce. These lettuces have small, round, loosely formed heads with soft textured leaves. The flavour is sweet and succulent. Be careful when washing the leaves, as they are very delicate and tender.

**Iceberg** - has tight round heads and is probably the most used lettuce in the world, in salads, hamburgers, tacos and much more. It is typically eaten raw and has a lovely crunchy, milky mild flavour.

**Drunken Women** - a multi-leaf variety that is a perpetual lettuce, meaning you can pull off leaves as you need them and have a fresh salad anytime. They are similar to a 'Butterhead' type in taste and appearance but have slightly smaller leaves. When cut at the base, the whole lettuce falls to pieces needing only a rinse before landing on your plate for consumption.

**Combo** - if you are unable to make up your mind which of the above lettuces you might like, try this. It is a mixture of all the above.

# Asparagus



Once established, asparagus plants are very long lived, and can produce crowns for up to twenty years. Do not worry if you're in an area where you get frost as asparagus dies down each winter and will produce new shoots or spears in the spring.

Light soils are preferred, so the spears can easily push through the soil surface. Before planting the crowns prepare the soil to the depth of a spade by digging in liberal quantities of compost then adding a general garden fertiliser. If you have acidic soils, then a light dressing of garden lime will be needed.

In the first growing season set crowns 15-20 cm deep and 30-50 cm apart at the bottom of a trench. Then fill the trench with an initial 5cm of soil. Add more soil as the asparagus starts to grow. Water regularly, and give liberal dressings of a high nitrogen fertiliser such as Odeerings Garden Replenish in summer to encourage vigorous top growth. In winter, cut the dry yellow fern down to ground level and fertilise again to encourage spears in spring.

Do not cut any spears in the first season of planting. Spear number numbers increase each year as the plant grows older (reaching full bearing in four to five years). In the second year, start cutting the spears as they appear (generally in August or September depending on where you live). Harvest spears every day or two and continue cutting for eight to ten weeks.



**AVAILABLE IN JUNE/JULY**



# LAWN Extravaganza

With autumn well underway, now is the perfect time to sow a new lawn or renew your existing one. There's nothing quite like a lush green lawn to enhance the look of your garden and value of your property. Lawns are the pride and joy of many New Zealand gardeners, particularly men, so if your lawn is not as it should be follow the steps below to have the best looking lawn on the block.

## The best advice

With water restrictions around much of the country in recent times a lot of lawns are looking the worse for wear. Currently ours is so bad we are discussing whether we are going to refresh our existing lawn, kill the existing lawn and re-sow it with seed, or 'bite the bullet' and replace with it 'Ready Lawn' or spray on grass.

How much time and money you have will shape your options.

### Starting Fresh

As a fair estimate after some internet browsing, and a few emails here is list of likely prices for you.

Ready lawn costs from \$6-10 per square metre to lay it yourself (plus the time to kill of any existing lawn, and prepare for the 'Ready Lawn' with a new layer of leveled top soil). To have all the work done for you where a company does the preparation, levels the lawn, provides a small follow-up after care service and lays the lawn for you, prices start from \$19 per square metre.

Spray on lawn costs \$280 for a 100 square metre lawn, with preparation work at \$8.00 per square metre.

Grass Seed Costs \$.048 for a budget seed up to \$.94c for a premium brand per square metre of lawn.

Note that you will need to follow preparation steps listed below if you are going to do your own lawn preparation.

### Do it Yourself

#### Preparation

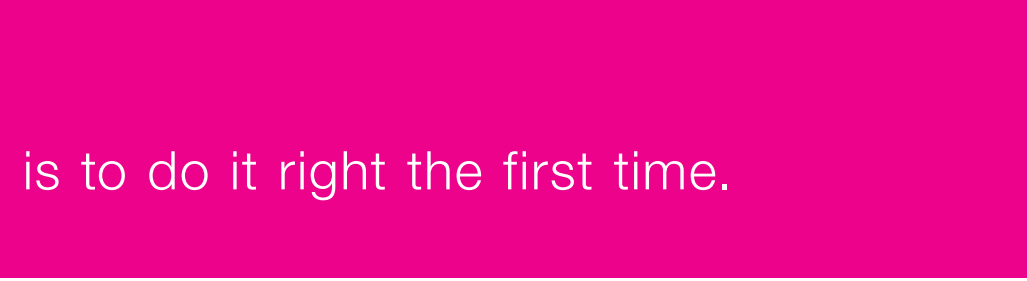
The best advice is to do it right the first time. Growing a new lawn requires careful preparation and hours of dedicated work. Your time and effort will reward you with a healthy lawn that will be a delight to the eye for many years to come.

#### Spray

You will need to start by using a spray to kill off the existing lawn such as 'RoundUp' or 'Weedout for General Weed Control'. Then wait two to three weeks for the lawn to completely die off, the warmer the weather the quicker this will happen.

#### Soil

As the area starts to die you will need to cultivate the soil to eight centimetres or scrape away the dead grass. The best option is to incorporate the dead grass with a rotary hoe or garden fork, adding fresh screened topsoil as you go. This limits the amount of new top soil needed to level the lawn surface. If you decide to scrape off the



is to do it right the first time.

dead grass, a shovel is going to be your new best friend.

**Level**

This is where the real work begins and this needs to be done properly. Level out the cultivated soil with a rake. Find any soft spots by “heeling in” (taking small steps on your heel), or use a roller to go over the top and compress soil. When you are satisfied that the area is level, compacted, and all holes are filled, rake the soil surface so the grass seed can set root.

**Sow**

Select a seed according to the situation, if you are unsure your Oderings staff will be able to advise you. Most grass seed is coated, providing fertiliser in the immediate vicinity of the young seed. This enables it to take up nutrients as soon as the seed has germinated. Coated seed also protects from fungal disease and bird theft during establishment. Sow seed at the rate of 30grams/sq. metre. Add ‘Scotts New Lawns & Repair Fertiliser’ when planting.

**Select**

There are five main types of grass seed to choose from: two from Oderings and three from Tui Superstrike. The latter comes in three choices – you pay a higher price for this product, but it is worth it. It takes seven days to germinate instead of the normal 21 so you get a faster established lawn.

**Oderings Hardwearing** – a budget orientated seed mix suitable for heavy wear and tear areas, this is a blend of fescue and ryegrass.

**Oderings Special Blend** – the ultimate all-rounder, it is a high quality, low maintenance lawn, with a medium to fine appearance that is fast to establish and is hard wearing, it is a blend of fescue, browntop and fine turf ryegrass.

**Superstrike Hot & Dry** – this is a blend of the most drought resistant grasses available, and gives a thick dark green lawn that won’t brown off over summer. It is suitable for sandy soils and sunny coastal areas. It contains a blend of fescue, Kentucky bluegrass and fine turf rye.

**Superstrike Shady Places** – a specialised mix, giving a very fine textured lawn in full or partial shade. It also has medium drought tolerance, is a low maintenance lawn and is a blend of fescue.

**Superstrike Easy-Care Lawn** – this lawn has a fine – medium blade texture. It is slow growing and requires less mowing and maintenance and has medium drought tolerance, it comprises a blend of fine turf ryegrass and turf fescue.

**After Care** – do not mow a new lawn until it is seven to 10cms tall, then remove the top one-third of the grass, gradually lowering the blades on your mower over the next few months until the grass is 2.5cm (this is the optimum height for your lawn). Keep the seed moist, but not wet, until it has germinated, and then water for half an hour every day until established. Deep watering is important as shallow watering produces shallow roots and invites weeds to invade the area.

*Continued Page 16.*



Want this?

Watch this...



Watch the Tui Time Lawns Guide for six simple steps to a lush lawn.

...and use this!



See your lawn growing in as little as 7 days with Tui Superstrike Lawn Seed. Available at Oderings.



View more how-to videos at [www.tuitime.co.nz](http://www.tuitime.co.nz)



- Weeds and moss thrive in lawns that are poorly maintained, try some of the following suggestions to reduce this problem.
- Mow regularly, removing only one third of the lawn's growth each time.
- By leaving the grass taller you will not expose the soil for weeds to become established.
- Reduce shade and aerate lawn annually to aid drainage and reduce moss.
- If you still have a problem with weeds, take a sample to your local garden centre for the correct advice on what to spray with. Do not spray weeds in new lawns for the first two months; thereafter use a weaker dilution of Yates 'Turfix' or KiwiCare 'Turfclean'. After the lawn is six months old you can use full strength solutions.

#### Fertiliser

With new lawns less than six months old fertilise using Scotts 'New Lawns & Repair', as this will not burn the seed or young grass. Premium brands such as Scotts 'Lawn Builder' or Oderings 'Lawn Replenish' can be used after the six months has passed. These fertilisers release slowly over three months and do not require watering in. Other cheaper brands of fertiliser can also be

used after the lawn is six months old; they do not have a controlled release of fertiliser and can burn your lawn, therefore, it is always advisable to water your lawn after applying these fertilisers. Fertilising should be done in spring, summer, and autumn. Always follow the recommended application rate to ensure you don't burn your lawn.

### Lawn Renovation

If you decide the option to start from scratch is too difficult or too expensive, here are some easy steps to renew and refresh your tired looking lawn.

#### Spraying

Start by spraying the existing lawn with a selective weed killer, this will kill broadleaf weeds but not the grass. If you have weeds that look like grass you will need to use a non-selective weed killer. Because this spray will kill everything, including lawn grass, you will need to spot spray it onto the grass weeds (for more information on weeds and sprays to use see the 'Weeds Be Gone' article on page 18 and 19. The sprays then need to dry for at least six hours before either rain falls or watering is done, after that you can resume your normal watering practices with your lawn.

#### Removal

When the weeds are dead mow the lawn to 2-3cm (making sure you use your lawn clipping catcher,

or rake up the debris by hand). The next step is often omitted, but in renewing a lawn it is, in my opinion, one of the most important. You need to hire a de-thatcher. This is an amazing mower-like machine that puts teeth into the ground and removes the layer of organic matter on the soil surface and all the old, dead blades of grass. This is important because the soil must be exposed for new seed to grow. You will spend a lot of time emptying the thatch catcher basket, but you will be left with a lawn that is ready for renewing. You should work in two different directions with this machine, for example, work down the length of the lawn and then work from side to side across it.

#### Level

Fill up any major dips or holes where puddles tend to form, and heel in.

#### Seed

Spread seed over the entire lawn, and sow at the same amount as a new lawn - 30g per square metre. Follow with a light raking to work the seed into the soil. Adding topsoil or sand after seeding is not recommended.

**Note:** Whether you pick a ready lawn, a spray on lawn, start from scratch, or renew your existing lawn, if you don't keep up the maintenance you will end up right back where you started within a year.

## Do you want a great fire without the rigmarole?

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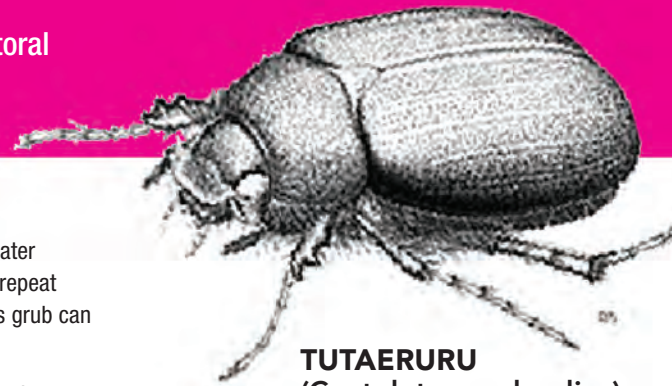
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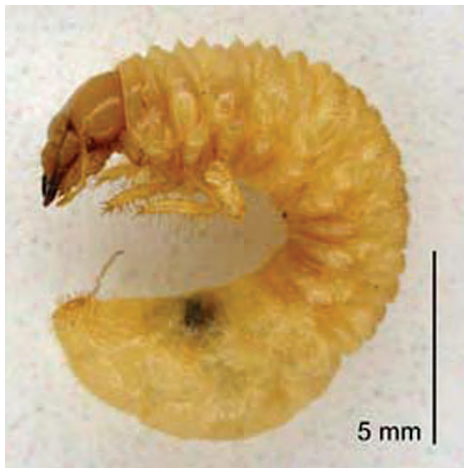
# Grass Grub

A native species, the common grass grub adult beetle grows to approximately 10-15cm long, and is one of the most destructive pastoral pests in New Zealand.



**TUTAERURU**  
(*Costelytra zealandica*)

A female beetle lays 50 eggs in batches of 10-40, about 75-175mm below the soil surface. Autumn moisture begins the first stage of the grass grub's development. The eggs are light in colour, oval in shape and can be seen by the naked eye. In ideal conditions the transition from egg to larvae grub takes three weeks and in a further four to five weeks the second grub stage is reached. The third stage takes a further 5-10 weeks, and it is during stage three that the grub is usually found in the top 25mm of the soil. This proximity to the soil surface makes it easier to apply effective control measures.



Grubs finish feeding in June through until September and move downward into the soil to pupate. The final stage from pupae to adult takes four to six weeks before the beetle emerges again in late October to feed on trees, shrubs, roses, grasses etc. until January.

The complete metamorphosis cycle can be as short as eight months or up to two years in some southern areas.

## Let's talk control

All of the following products require water to activate them very important), and repeat applications may be required, as grass grub can hibernate for three to four years.

Diazinon kills by oral or dermal contact. It requires a large amount of water to dissolve the marble prill and activate the ingredients. If you haven't had success with this product in the past, it may be due to insufficient water.

Neem Oil kills by oral contact. This product gets into the grass grubs' stomachs and prevents them eating, so they starve.

Neem Granules are larger than the Diazinon prills, and kill by oral contact, again by starvation. The granules are slow acting, but long lasting. They can also be placed under trees where their systemic action (absorbed by the tree) kills the beetle on the wing.

The sprays and granules mentioned above will also help deter porina, caterpillar, carrot rust fly, slatters, centipedes and many other soil dwelling insects.



▲ Yates Complete Lawn Insect Control  
A new spray on control which treats 150m<sup>2</sup> of lawn

A combination of two effective insecticides that work together to kill soil pests.



# WEEDS BE GONE

Even expert gardeners find it hard to know 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. Another thing that is important to know is that lawn fertilisers are quite acidic, you need to apply lime (fertiliser) at least once a year, this will help to release the nutrients from the lawn fertilisers. Lime will also weaken and make hydrocotyle stand up, making it easier to kill.

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.



### 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.



### Chamomile

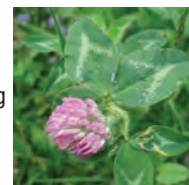
Some people love it; and some hate it. Chamomile has fine needle like leaves and white flowers. Use: Weed Out For Lawn Weed Control, Turfix or Weed 'n' Feed.



### 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.



## 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.

# SPRAYS

### 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.



### 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).



### 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.



### Onehunga Weed – prickle

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 2 years in a row. Use: Woody Weedkiller, Turfix, Turfclean, 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! Alternatively my favourite new product this year is the RoundUp Gel, simply press the button to release the gel and apply directly to the weed, you get no spray drift, no run off and it wont kill your surrounding plants. You will also be happy to know that I used the gel versus other weed killing sprays and it worked at least two times faster with destroying the weeds - RoundUp Gel is well worth a look at. (see coupon on back page).



### 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.



### 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.



### 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.

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