

ODERINGS

The First Name In Gardening

Live & Grow

ISSUE 28 AUTUMN/WINTER 2012

COMPLIMENTARY COPY



ROSES | BRAMBLES | WINTER VEGETABLES



Beacon Blue



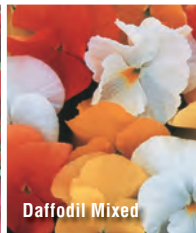
Black Dream



Blueberry Custard



Cantab



Daffodil Mixed



Eclipse Orange



Flamboyant Mixed



Grapetise



Hot Shot Clear Mixed



Hot Shot Irish Cream



Hot Shot Orange



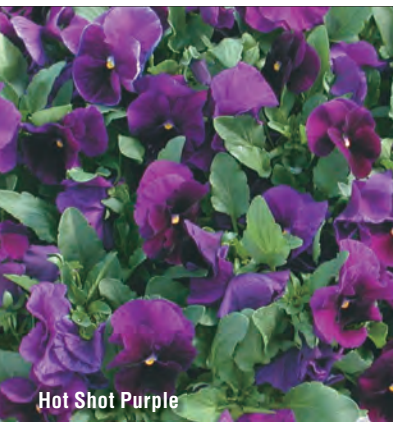
Hot Shot Yellow



Hot Shot Pink



Hot Shot Primrose



Hot Shot Purple

Oderings
Pansy
collection



Hot Shot True Blue



Ice Castles



Lavender Shades



Luscious Mixed



Majestic Yellow Blotch



Merlot Ice



Majestic Giants Mixed



Majestic White Blotch



Peacock Blue



Skyline Copperfield



Hot Shot Red



Pluto



Winter Waterfall



Wine Flash



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Specials on-line**

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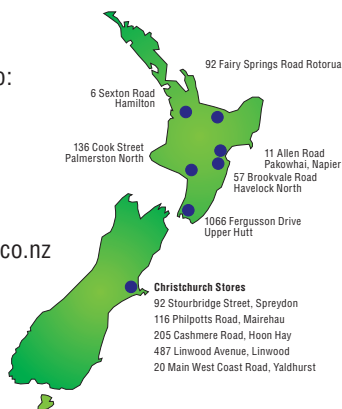
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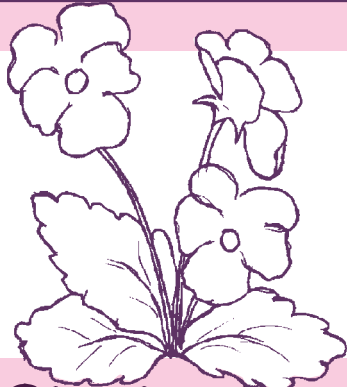
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Perfect Pansies



Digging In

with Daniel



Daniel Hart
Havelock North



Pansy Cascade Violet Wing

Pansy Cascade Violet Wing

This year, 2012, introduces a great new addition to the cascading pansy family which offers flower power, uniqueness, daintiness and cascading charm on a tough, hardy, resilient and versatile plant. In Christchurch last year, Julian Odering, had his plants under 15cm of snow and they bounced back. Pansy Cascade series is simply 'a must have' that will add an abundance of unique cascading colour to any basket, tub, pot, window box, garden bank or anywhere you want colour this autumn/winter. This is one of the most exciting series of the year and Pansy Cascade 'Violet Wing' adds to the existing series of trailing pansies that Oderings sell in colours of white, yellow, wing, and the last years new introduction of 'Pansy Glacier' which is a chameleon that changes colour from purple to white, often all at the same time.



Pansy Peacock Blue

Pansy 'Peacock Blue' is back! This is my favourite pansy because it offers something different, beautiful and definitely unique. 'Peacock Blue' has medium to large-sized flowers varying in colour with a wash of vibrant blue on the top fading yellow to black with dark whiskers. This variety has been bred to have non-stop flower power with a compact habit. It is also very hardy in the winter, yet resistant to the heat of summer. Join me and make Pansy 'Peacock Blue' your favourite too, you will love its characteristics including disease resistance and vigour resulting in a riot of unique colour to highlight your garden.

Growing

Plant pansies in a sunny or partly shaded position. Good drainage is essential to growing healthy pansies. 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 a 'must' for success. 'Oderings Potting Mix' is the perfect planting medium for pansies, and regular spraying is also important to prevent powdery mildew and black spot establishing over the winter months



Pansy Peacock Blue

Polyanthus *Pacific Giants*



Two years ago the Sakata Seed Company of Japan, which produce the world's Polyanthus Pacific Giants seed, decided to drop this top selling Oderings line from their seed assortment. They replaced it with a polyanthus called 'Supernova' which, after extensive garden trials, we felt just didn't 'cut the mustard' compared to its predecessor in its garden performance.

After trialling a lot of different polyanthus seed from all around the world we've found a winner. This polyanthus is called C.A. Wood and is bred in Australia. Based on our trials this is the best performing polyanthus I have ever seen. The flower petals have excellent resistance to and recovery from rain damage, the stems are the strongest and thickest I have ever seen in a polyanthus, and it has great resistance to botrytis, which is the biggest killer of polyanthus. More importantly for our customers it has an awesome colour range. Last autumn I supplied the Hastings District Council's bedding plant contract for town gardens and roundabouts; this order consisted of pansies, violas, C.A. Wood Polyanthus and other

bedding lines. They were so impressed with the polyanthus that that is all they have ordered for this autumn. Be aware, however, even though the seed has been changed to an improved variety that out-performs the old, we are going to keep calling it Polyanthus Pacific Giants in our stores. C.A. Woods is another Pacific Giants variety hence the name staying the same. This year's mixed polyanthus sold at Oderings are tough, hardy and real stars that are great in the garden, pots, tubs or bowls. They will give you a glorious show all winter long. Please try these, they are absolutely superb.

Growing

Plant them in a sunny or partly shaded position. Good drainage is essential to grow healthy polyanthus. If they get too much water on a regular basis they will become susceptible to fungi like botrytis, so a careful watering programme and excellent drainage is a must for success. 'Oderings Potting Mix' provides the perfect planting medium for polyanthus. Regular spraying is also important to prevent black spot establishing over the winter months. A basal feed of dried blood is an excellent way of getting them started and enhancing the vibrancy of the flower colour, it also acts as a 'pick me up' when they are hungry (yellow leaves) or are stressed.





Helleborus 'Joy Bouquet'



I am a recent convert to the joys of the hellebore family. Those of you who have had hellebores in your garden before will possibly wonder why I am a recent convert. I guess the easiest explanation is that there are so many plants that I see everyday in the garden centre that a plant really has to have something special to catch my eye. My Mum drags me into work a couple of times a year to pick out plants for her garden. Last year I added hellebores to her collection as she has a semi-shaded nook in which I thought they would do well. I can only ever supply my Mum with plants that will thrive on total neglect, so the hellebore was one of the plants at the top of my list. Once Dad planted them the hellebores began to take off and started to fill in the gaps in this difficult area. Not long after that they

started flowering and looked absolutely charming as they were smothered in flowers. Now in their second year, the plants are looking impressive and I could resist them no longer so I have now purchased some hellebores for my own garden.

They are commonly known in New Zealand as the winter rose because of the welcome colour they bring to the late winter garden. There are many hellebore varieties to choose from and these will become available in the garden centre from now until mid-spring. They come in colours ranging from white to pinks, reds, and purples and in single or double flowers.

One of my favourite hellebores is the variety 'Joy

Bouquet', this is a seedling grown from a hybrid variety so you never know what colour you are going to get. It has been bred to produce larger than normal flowers in a range of clear colours - whites, creamy yellows, pinks and dark reds. Grow hellebores in clumps to create a dramatic colour display and a picturesque garden scene. Plant them up to 60cm apart in a full sun, part shade or full shade in soil that is well-drained and enriched with compost at the time of planting.

Don't overlook the hellebores at Oderings this year, once you plant one you will be converted to these little charmers just as I was.



Decorate your home with a splash of colour this winter!

NEW SEASON Silk Flowers are in stock now at your local Oderings Store.

*We have all your favourites
POPPIES | HYDRANGEAS
ROSES | PEONIES and many more*

Look for this tag



SALE ON NOW!

ENDS 20th APRIL 2012

TOP 10

Mother's Day Gifts



Aromatherapy Diffusers ▲

These are one of Oderings most popular gift lines. They contain special blends of 100% pure and natural essential oils in cocoa and vanilla, orange and jasmine and rose and patchouli. They come in two sizes.

Italian Cheese Making Kit ▼



Making your own cheese is easy with the Italian Cheese Making Kits. This is a great gift idea for people who are hard to buy for.

ARS Precision Pocket Secateurs ▶

These are our most popular secateurs for women. They are lightweight, rust resistant and especially suited for small to medium-sized hands.



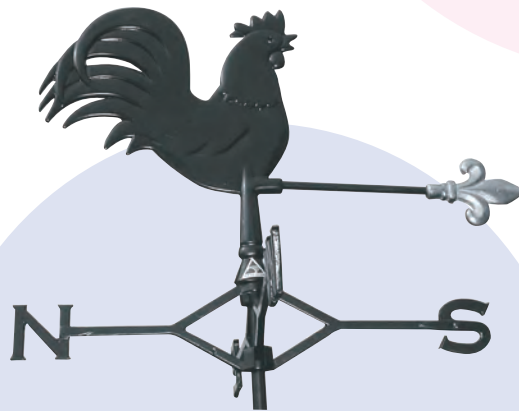
Gift Vouchers

Made to any denomination, redeemable at any reputable garden centre nationwide, no expiry date.



Gumboots

New Zealand made product in a range of fantastic colours. These quality gumboots are such a reasonable price and another great gift idea for gardeners who have it all.



Sand Cast Weather Vanes ▲

These black, sand-cast weather vanes are a fantastic long-lasting gift idea and they are individually boxed. Stock may vary from store to store but generally we have the following options: cat and mouse, snapper, horse, and rooster. We can also order a yacht, a trout, a bull or an arrow if you wish.



Niche Bioset Fresh Sprout Propagators ▲

These make it easy to successfully grow healthy fresh sprouts all year round without any soil. Simply fill the top with water once or twice a day and Bioset does the rest.

Cyclamen

A great living gift idea. Cyclamens are easy care plants that keep flowering indoors for most of the winter. Once flowering is finished you can then plant out the cyclamen in your garden.



Mushroom Kits

There is a choice of either gourmet oyster mushroom or button/flat mushroom kits. These kits make growing mushrooms quick and easy, they are simply delicious and a great gift idea!



Mosaic Stepping Stones

These mosaic pavers/wall art can be used as gorgeous stepping stones or as a unique display hung up in your garden along walls.



Gifts available in store or online at oderings.co.nz

FICUS

The Ornamental Fig

Ficus is the Latin name for fig. In this family there are over 1,000 varieties originating from the warm climates of Central and South America, Australia and South-East Asia. The foliage varies hugely from the large, oval, fleshy leaves of the *Ficus elastica* (rubber tree) to the small heart-shaped leaves of the *Ficus pumila* (creeping fig). Most people find ficus hard to grow but generally this is because they over-water their plants.

New Zealanders generally grow ficus as ornamental houseplants because they look elegant with their semi-weeping habit. However, there are also self-clinging varieties that can be planted indoors or out as a groundcover or as a climber. All ficus make great container specimens, but do not plant them into a large pot initially to help avoid overwatering them.

Ficus benjamina is the original weeping fig with small, green, wavy leaves and is the most popular in the ficus family as a houseplant specimen. The fine branches divide many times giving the plant a delicate weeping tree-like shape that can be trimmed into fancy shapes or trained as a standard. A popular cultivar of *Ficus benjamina* is a variety called 'Diana' which has a slightly paler green leaf, edged with a touch of cream. *Ficus benjamina* 'Starlight' has similarities in leaf colour and shape to 'Diana' but has more cream throughout the entire leaf although the growth habit differs being more upright rather than weeping.

Ficus lyrata is also known as the 'fiddle leaf fig'. This name refers to its enormous upside-down shaped waxy leaves that can reach up to 50cm



Ficus lyrata 'fiddle leaf fig'

in length. The dark green leaves have slightly paler, sunken veins with a wavy margin. This is a tall, upright plant and does not branch as readily as other varieties, so it is ideal if you want a plant that is a little taller and more slender. This ficus prefers a slightly more humid and warmer climate.

Ficus elastica is also known as the 'rubber plant'. The milky sap contains the main source of latex from which rubber used to be made; this was superseded by the Brazilian rubber tree (*Ficus hevea*) leaving *Ficus elastica*'s main use now as a striking specimen plant with long, oval, leathery, dark and glossy foliage, ideal in living rooms or offices. *Ficus elastica* 'Black Knight' has a similar growth habit and form, but is a variety with less vigorous growth and has near-black glossy leaves that make a great contrast to other plants.

Ficus pumila is also known as the 'creeping fig' and is generally available in plain green or a variegated/spotted leaf. It grows in a dense carpet and is one of the best indoor groundcovers. The stems cling to any damp surface which makes it an excellent climbing plant indoors or out. The small heart-shaped leaves grow to 3cm each in length but the dense foliage offers a lovely covering which looks dainty and lush.

All ficus prefer a well lit area, an average temperature of 15 degrees Celsius away from cool draughts. Water the plants carefully and allow them to dry out a little between waterings and feed with 'Oderings Total Replenish' twice a year in spring and autumn.



Ficus benjamina



Ficus elastica 'rubber plant'



Ficus pumila 'creeping fig'



Of all the spring flowering bulbs or corms, freesias are amongst the most rewarding to grow, harvest and enjoy.

If you regularly purchase freesia flowers or freesia bulbs from us you will know that Oderings is quite unusual in the timing of our sales of freesia flowers. In winter we have a lot of unused space in our glasshouses because the season is so much slower so we fill this space by growing freesia flowers to help with winter sales.

Freesias are an amazing crop which we start from seed in mid-spring and we pick the flowers through late autumn until late winter/early spring. We then collect the bulbs, dry them and have the corms available for the public in March.

Oderings have been growing freesias for over 60 years. We grow the 'Super Emerald' strain, which we originally purchased from France in the 1970s. We chose it for its superior strong stems, large flowers and exquisite perfume.

In 1995, we selected exceptional corms from previous years and pollinated the crop with bees, thus giving us our own seed, which we have been growing ever since. This seed is sown in early

October. The first flowers are ready to be picked in mid March/April.

Freesia corms produce an average of three flowering stems per plant, with six to eight buds per stem. Like most bulb crops, freesias need a good soaking, they are then allowed to dry out before being re-wetted. Once the crop has finished flowering the corms are removed from the soil and the foliage cut off. The corms are then put into storage for sale from March until June.

Plant your freesia corms 7cms apart with the bottom of the bulb about 7cm deep. Incorporate either a bulb potting mix or use 'Oderings Potting Mix' and add bulb fertiliser. When fertilising always make a 10cm hole for planting, add a teaspoon of fertiliser per corm in the bottom of the hole, add 3cm of new soil and then put the corm in and cover it with more potting mix.

The bulbs will not need any more fertiliser until they are towards the end of their flowering season. This ensures the bulb replenishes itself so you will have

a healthy plant with a lot of flowers for the following season. Always allow the bulbs to die down naturally as this also helps put energy back into the bulb. Once the foliage has completely flopped and is dying off you may then remove it. You can either leave the bulbs in the soil undisturbed until next season or you can lift them and store them in a dry, darkish place like the garage.

Freesias are an excellent addition for your home over the winter months, adding vibrant colour and perfume to any décor. They are a great, long-lasting flower as long as the water is changed on a regular basis.

Note: Our Freesias are grown out of season. The natural time for Freesias to flower is spring, from corms planted February through to May.



Roses

In late autumn/winter it may be tempting to curl up with a book (or new rose catalogue) and listen to some good music and ignore the outside world, but what we do with our roses over this time is important. To ensure our roses give us the best performance and plentiful blooms for the following season, we must brave the cold and tidy up, mulch, spray and prune our somewhat scraggly and, by now, bare roses.



Pruning

Believe it or not pruning is no great scientific mystery. Rose flowers are produced on new season's growth, so by cutting out dead, diseased wood and reducing the stems by about a half you will get strong new growth and lots of flowers produced in spring. Cut the stem on a slight angle just above where a leaf has been (that's where there are dormant shoots). Don't let your rose bushes get too dense or congested, roses like sun and air movement, so if necessary cut out inside branches completely. Think of it as a vase shape, empty in the middle.

From late June to early August is the best time to prune. For Flower Carpet roses, patio roses and shrubby types a simple overall hedge trim will do. Roses are tough; it's virtually impossible to kill a rose by pruning incorrectly, so relax and just do it.

Spraying

Spraying your roses and the ground around your roses is essential to keeping them healthy. In winter, spray with lime sulphur, which encourages the defoliation of leaves as well as keeping the stems free of scale, moss and lichen. Reapply two weeks later. In a further two to three weeks apply a copper and oil spray to help prevent scale, red mite and fungal problems. Respray every two weeks for the next six weeks. When roses develop their luscious spring growth spray with any of the following to prevent black spot, rust and most

insects: Shield, Super Shield or Guardall. Try to alternate your sprays when possible so the roses do not build up immunity to a given spray.

Fertiliser

Winter is the optimum time to throw some garden lime or dolomite lime around to keep your soil sweet, but do not apply any other fertilisers until mid-August, as the plants cannot use it while they are dormant so the fertiliser will only get washed away by winter rains. After August add half a cup of fertiliser to each rose and reapply at three monthly intervals (excluding winter).

Planting

Choose the site carefully, to suit both you and the rose. They like sun for at least one third of the day, and air movement, although they dislike strong winds. Plant your roses where you will get most enjoyment from them, next to a frequently used path or close to a window. Standards and weeping roses are excellent for adding height and dimension to the garden but remember to stake them well at planting, before the roots are covered, to prevent root damage.

New rose beds are best prepared before planting. Deep digging helps drainage, aeration and loosens the soil for easy root penetration. Mix in 'Oderings Compost' to improve the condition of the soil and add a handful or two of an organic fertiliser like 'Oderings Blood & Bone'. If you're replacing an old rose, it's well worth the effort to dig out the

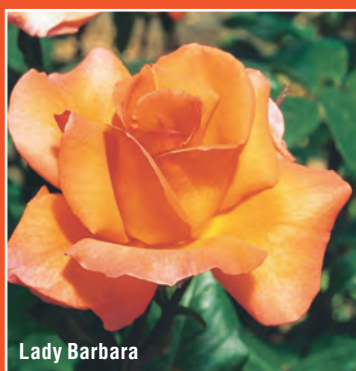
old soil too, replacing it with fresh new soil and compost to give the new rose a kick-start. Dig the hole large enough to create a mound in the bottom so that the roots can be spread over it, and ensure the hole is deep enough for the graft to sit just above the soil. Do not apply fertiliser at this stage as direct contact with fertiliser can kill tender new roots. Space your plants about a metre apart, slightly more for very vigorous varieties, and two metres apart for climbers. Remember to keep your rose well-watered for the first six months as it becomes established.

Our rose guru, Janine, suggests you try one or some of the following roses this season. They are her tried and true favourites that she highly recommends.





Aotearoa



Lady Barbara



Glamis Castle



Anniversary



Auckland Metro



Precious Platinum



Little Opal



Double Delight



Tintinara

Lady Barbara (climber)

This is a beautiful tangerine orange with a yellow reverse. Janine loves it for its long flowering on a healthy-looking bush and it's also great for picking.

Dublin Bay (climber)

This is a healthy rose with nice foliage. Janine adores the frequency of this rose's repeat flowerings with clusters of bright red semi-double blooms.

Double Delight (bush, hybrid tea)

It's high praise when Janine says it's one of the best roses for fragrance, and she also enjoys the interest the blooms offer because they change colour with age. Unfortunately it is slow to become established, but once established it is a great rose.

Aotearoa New Zealand (bush, hybrid tea)

The lovely, creamy pink blooms have a powerful fragrance. Janine recommends this rose because of its strong growth; it keeps its shape well and is good for picking.

Auckland Metro (bush, hybrid tea)

Not only does this rose offer a nice shape and healthy strong foliage, according to Janine, but the beautiful, creamy white blooms are super fragrant.

Tintinara (bush, hybrid tea)

This rose is so vibrant with its salmon orange blooms that Janine feels that it almost glows. It also keeps its colour well and is a strong grower with a light fragrance.

Precious Platinum (bush, hybrid tea)

Janine recommends this rose as an excellent picker, it's not the most fragrant but the deep crimson red looks great.

Little Opal (patio rose)

Janine highly recommends this little stunner because it has masses of perfect formed flowers that repeat well.

Glamis Castle (English)

This English rose is loved by Janine because of its stunning fragrance and abundance of white flowers.

Anniversary (bush, floribunda)

Janine thinks you should try this rose because it has masses of flowers that look like porcelain, set against stunning foliage on a healthy rose that repeats well.

NEW IN 2012

Christchurch (bush, hybrid tea)

This is a new rose which looks interesting. From every rose sold \$2 goes to the mayoral relief fund. This rose is described as a brilliant vibrant orange which is stunning when first out. It has well-formed blooms freely borne on a neat bushy plant of medium height and it has repeat flowerings throughout the season. The foliage is dense, glossy and dark green with excellent disease tolerance. This is a multi-award winning rose, named to support the city of Christchurch.



Crème De La Crème

Crème De La Crème (bush, hybrid tea)

Janine thinks this looks lovely and shows great potential with its creamy white blooms with a coffee-coloured centre and an alluring fragrance.

Ask for one of Oderings free rose lists for 2012 when you are next in store or view pictures and descriptions of our range at www.oderings.co.nz



Anemones

Anemones & RANUNCULUS

Anyone who has grown anemones or ranunculus will know that they are some of the showiest and longest lived bulbs/corms you can buy. They grow from corms, come in a range of colours and last well in a vase as a cut flower.

There are two main ways for the gardener to buy anemones and ranunculus for growing at home, either by corms or seedlings. The best time to buy corms is between February and mid-May. The earlier you get them into the garden the earlier they will flower. They take about four months from planting to flowering. Plant them in full sun and well-drained soil for optimum results. If the corms get too wet they will rot and die but they do need some moisture to produce strong flower stems. If planting seedlings then they will take two to three months to flower.

Purchasing anemones and ranunculus as corms means you can buy separate colours and varieties for a bold display or you can buy a mixed bag for a colourful show. Alternatively you can buy and plant the mixed varieties of seedlings in the Oderings bedding flower selection. To get the best flower display from your corms put them in a paper bag in the fridge for about six weeks; this will help break the plants' dormancy. After six weeks in the fridge, put the corms into a bowl of lukewarm water to soak for a few hours overnight. This will rehydrate the corm, encourage the roots to grow and make

it easier for the plant to sprout. You can now plant them directly where you want them to grow in the garden, but first you should prepare the area by spreading some bulb fertiliser or bone flour and then dig it into the first 10cm of soil. Plant the corms 5cm deep and 10-15cm apart into the prepared soil.

For those of you who have seen the corms before, you will know that anemones are small and shaped a little like a Hershey's Kiss chocolate. Plant them with the cone side down and the flat side facing the sky. Ranunculus corms are shaped like a claw, the claw-like fingers should be placed downwards when planted with the little centre knob facing the sky. After planting water the corms in well. If you find you are too late to grow from corms it's still not too late to have them in your garden. We sell them as seedlings in our 'Primaflora' range. While your corms are growing feed with bulb fertiliser or bone flour, this will keep the flowers going for longer.

The anemone variety we sell is 'Harmony' which is a disease resistant, compact growing strain with a fantastic mix of all the colours. We sell two varieties of ranunculus. The first is 'Magic', a dwarf

variety growing only 12-15cm tall, which is great for a petite garden or for pots and containers. The second is called 'Bloomingdale', which is a larger variety growing to 25-30cm tall with flowers that are up to 8cm across.

As the days get warmer the plant will finish flowering and start to go yellow. Once the foliage dies down to the ground remove the foliage and pull up the corms to replant for the following year. In my experience, the younger corms that you buy from the garden centre are more vigorous and put on a better display so it's always a good idea to mix the old corms with some new ones each year.

For something a little different try planting them in a pot or container. You can plant them closer together for support and a thicker display. Jazz the pot up a bit by planting a bedding plant around the edge like our cascading pansies; this will give the pot interest while the anemones and ranunculus are growing.

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Viburnum Davidii

This is often an overlooked and under-utilised plant in gardens or landscaping. There are both male and female forms. *Viburnum davidii* is a hardy evergreen, with lush, leathery leaves and a compact growing habit.

I particularly like this plant when it is planted en masse because it is a good performer and is stunning to look at. Whether you like foliage, flowers or berries this plant has it all with petite clusters of light-pinkish buds that open to bunches of white flowers. If you have both the male and female species planted together these flowers will be followed by a spectacular display of bright, electric-blue, and narrow berries/fruit. These are a fantastic feature in winter when everything else in the garden looks dull. The female plants produce the berries but they need a nearby male plant to do so. If you want a bright display of berries then plant up to four female plants to each male plant.

Viburnum davidii is suited to most soil types and requires little maintenance. Plant it in full sun or part shade; it will tolerate most soils unless they are very wet. Avoid planting them in extremely hot or windy areas. Ideally, the plants like a light prune after the winter berries are finished to keep the plants in shape. Feed them bi-annually with an acid fertiliser like 'Oderings Rhodo, Camellia & Azalea Fertiliser'. I've seen these viburnums used in pots or as a groundcover as they can be kept as low as 75cm when trimmed. They are also equally at home in rockeries, as a gap filler in the garden or used in group plantings as a hedge growing to 1.5m high.

So, if you are looking for an evergreen plant that provides valuable winter interest, lush foliage all year round, and a plant that has a range of uses - hedge, ground cover or filling gaps - then this stand out plant should be on your list.



Brambles

currants and gooseberries

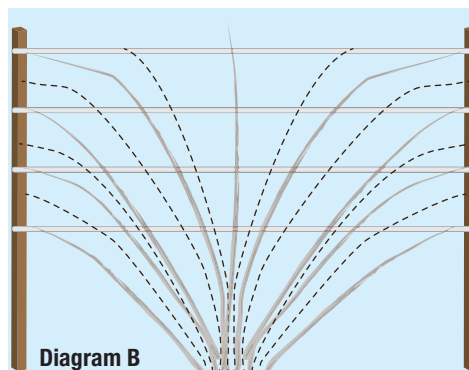
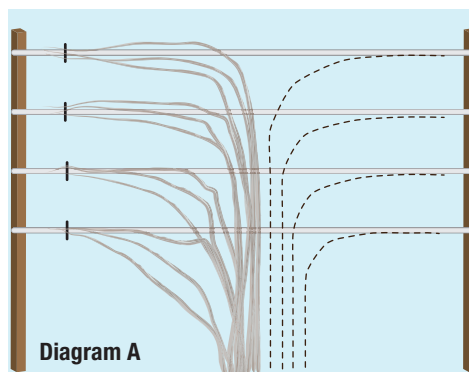
Brambles are from the *Rubus* family, which includes such favourites as blackberries, tayberries, boysenberries and raspberries. Most brambles prefer moderate summers and cold winters.

Brambles will ripen from mid-summer until autumn. The first bramble to ripen is the boysenberry, followed by loganberries and blackberries, with raspberries ripening in either early summer or autumn, depending on their variety.

Brambles prefer a slightly acidic soil which is free-draining. They detest water-logged soil even if it is only for a short time, so drainage is essential, but they do require adequate watering in summer. When planting use 'Oderings Blood & Bone' then feed annually with 'Oderings Citrus & Fruit Tree Fertiliser' in spring.

Brambles are very vigorous growers and all brambles need some sort of training and support to maximise production. A plant that is left to its own devices will grow quite happily, but will generally not fruit well. The only exception to this rule is the raspberry.

The following shows a couple of the easiest ways to train brambles



Plant brambles two to three metres apart. Brambles will fruit on last season's new growth. In summer/autumn when you have picked the last of your fruit you should immediately remove the canes at ground level that have fruited and leave the canes that have just grown over the spring and summer, removing any weak and surplus growth. Normally the canes that have fruited are a lot darker than the new canes. The tips of the canes should be cut off when they have reached a desired height or spread. Diagram A shows what is probably the easiest way to train your bramble. As the new canes grow they can immediately be tied up opposite the fruiting



Boysenberry

ones. The training method shown in diagram B will give you heavier fruit production but can be a bit more time consuming.

Pests and diseases include budmoth, leafroller, botrytis, cane blight, downy mildew (dryberry), rust and, of course, birds. This seems a formidable list but if you adopt a good spraying program this will take care of any disease problems. First spray with lime sulphur while the canes are dormant, when the buds start to appear spray with a mix of copper and oil. Before and after flowering you should spray with Bravo, Carbaryl or Success. Remember to cover fruiting plants with bird netting so you get to eat the berries instead of our feathery friends. Never spray fruit within seven days of harvest.

Varieties to choose from include:

Blackberry thorn free

This has red fruit that turn black when they are ripe

Loganberry

A cross between a blackberry and a raspberry. Loganberries crop heavily, have an acidic but tangy flavour and are good for cooking.

Tayberry

This is also a cross between a blackberry and a raspberry but has larger berries and is less acidic than the loganberry with more of a blackberry flavour. Tayberries are very aromatic and are nice eaten fresh.



Tayberry



Raspberry



Boysenberry

There are lots of different varieties, most have thorns but there are some semi-thornless varieties available.

Raspberries

Again there are lots of different varieties available with colours ranging from traditional reds to dark purple, black or even golden yellow. There are two sorts of raspberries, summer fruiting and autumn fruiting. With autumn varieties all canes should be cut to ground level in July/August; then, as new canes grow in spring and summer, they should be tied to wires or supported against a fence. With summer fruiting varieties cut down all the canes that have finished fruiting immediately after picking and keep six to nine of the best new canes from the current season for fruiting next season.

Currants and Gooseberries

These belong to the *Ribes* family. Currants prefer a slightly acidic soil and an abundant supply of water in summer. They can also tolerate a semi-shaded position and require winter chilling. Currants can grow to two metres high and should be planted two metres apart, but can also be grown as a hedge with plants as close as 60cm.

Black currants are very high in vitamin C, where red currants have less vitamin C and white currants have virtually no nutritional value. Black currants fruit on new season's wood, whereas red and white currants fruit on wood that is two or more years old.

Pruning of black currants should be done from May to September. Select six to eight shoots from the base of the plant and every year remove two or three of the older, thicker, darker canes - no wood should be kept for more than four years. Cut out any low and weak branches.

Red and white currants and gooseberries will fruit on the same wood for a number of years (much like an apple tree), so each year cut out any diseased wood and crowding within the middle of the bush. A red or white currant should have a small trunk up to 40cm high. Try and aim for about eight main branches in a vase shape. After five or six years remove one of the main branches down to the lowest shoot, making sure you choose a different branch each year.



Blackberry



Loganberry



Red Currant



Gooseberry

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Pyracantha



Anyone who has seen a pyracantha in its full glory would have to agree with the common name 'firethorn' which is derived from two Greek words: *pyr* meaning fire and *akanthos* meaning thorn.

Although pyracanthas come in three berry colours - orange, yellow, or red - the red variety called 'Brilliant' is certainly by far the most popular. It is a vigorous grower that will withstand lower temperatures and has a stunning display of with a vibrant red berries.

Although pyracantha can be grown on its own as a specimen plant it is often planted as a security hedge/screen, trained along fences or kept trimmed as a dense hedge below windows. The reason it makes a great security plant is because of the large thorns that are very sharp. I've also seen them grown in both espalier and topiary forms, both stunning when the plant is in berry.

Aside from the berries, which will provide a solid mass of vivid colour all autumn and winter thus attracting the birds, the

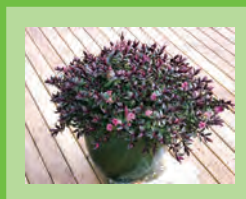
pyracantha also offers masses of lovely white flowers in spring and lush, green, shiny, evergreen foliage in summer.

Pyracanthas thrive on neglect. Plant them in full sun to part-shade in well-drained soil. Although they will survive poor soils, temperatures and drought, these conditions do tend to restrict their growth. Pyracantha plants detest root disturbance, so when planting just cut the bag off and plant them into a hole dug twice the size of the plants' root ball and then fill the remaining space with 'Oderings Potting Mix' or 'Oderings Compost'. Remember, never plant the tree any deeper than the height it was originally planted in its bag. If you are using pyracanthas as a hedge or a screen then plant them 30-40cm away from the fence/wall and one metre apart. Prune pyracanthas when they are in flower, this makes it easier to make sure you get berries every year because they only produce berries on wood that is over two years old.

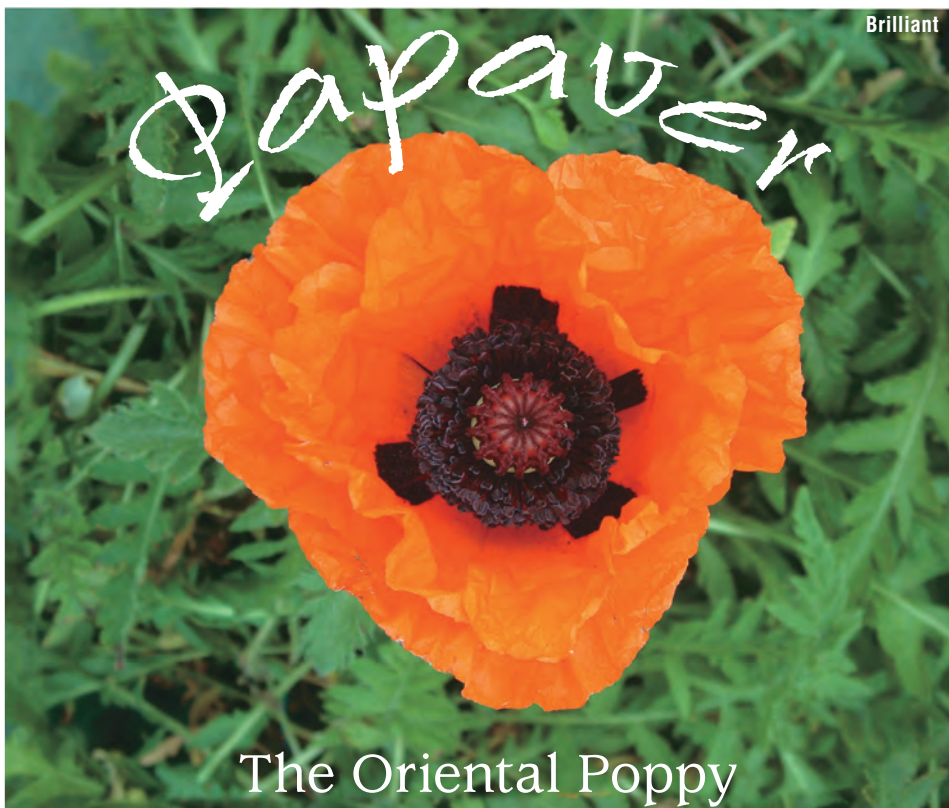


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The Oriental Poppy

Poppies are such popular, flamboyant and dramatic plants that no introduction is really needed, but the reason I thought we should give this much loved spring flowering plant a mention is simple. In spring customers come in to buy poppies to plant. This is because they look so lovely at this time of year, but if you don't plant them in autumn/winter then the poppies will not flower until the spring 12 months later – so heed my advice and plant them now for a spectacular spring display.

There are three ways to purchase poppies. You can buy them as seeds and as bedding plants, where after a season you pull them out and re-plant again next year. Or you can buy them as perennials which go dormant in summer when the season is hot, but reappear year after year. In this issue of 'Oderings Live & Grow' we will concentrate on the perennial poppy otherwise known as the oriental poppy.

Perennial poppies are generally a larger growing poppy reaching between 75-90cm tall and a width of 45-60cm. They offer beautiful, delicate looking flowers which have a silky appearance and tissue-like petals which appear from mid-spring to early summer. The flowers are extremely attractive to bees and birds and are often used in cottage garden plantings or planted en masse for a backdrop making a spectacular display.

Poppies require full sun and deep, free-draining soil that is light in texture. You can achieve the latter easily by incorporating 'Oderings Potting Mix' or 'Oderings Compost' into the soil when planting. Once they are dormant remove any unsightly foliage and wait for the beauties to reappear in early autumn.

Oderings have five popular papaver for you to choose from this season:

'Beauty of Livermore' - intense large red flowers.

'Allegro' - large scarlet blooms.

'Brilliant' - large bright orange blooms.

'Royal Wedding' - large white crepe-papery petals with a black mark at the base of each flower.

'Princess Victoria Louise' - large salmon-pink flowers.



Just because the days are getting shorter and summer is but a memory doesn't mean we can't enjoy going out and harvesting fresh home-grown vegetables. If you are wondering what to plant and when is the best time to do so, the following guide should help.

THE WINTER VEGGIE



Asparagus

Plant during the winter to harvest in spring. Here at Oderings we have our corms for sale from July/August. The best time to plant is July to September. Make sure you have plenty of space available for planting because they are a perennial plant and can last over 50 years. Harvest spears as soon as they start poking through the soil, about September through to December, and then leave the spears to form a plant to replenish itself for the following year.



Carrots

Sow winter varieties like 'All Year Round' and 'Manchester Table'. Most varieties mature in 80 days so if you want them over winter sow in early to mid-autumn. Do not thin until they are baby carrot size then you can eat the thinnings and leave the rest to mature. Harvest as you need them, they will stay fresher in the soil than in the fridge.



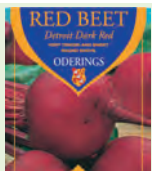
Beans

A great winter favourite. Choose from green, butter (yellow), French or runner. Sow from seed or buy as seedlings from February through to the end of July. Climbing varieties perform better if grown up a frame and it's easier to harvest the tender pods. If you are short on space try growing a dwarf variety that doesn't need staking. Broad beans are great for planting in the cooler months. They are hardy, easy to grow and produce a prolific crop through winter.



Cauliflower

Plant as a seedling from February to May for harvest in winter from July to September. We grow cauliflower 'All Seasons' which, as the name suggests, can be grown year round.



Beetroot

Sown from seed or planted from our fantastic range of seedlings, beetroot is a year round crop. The young leaves can be picked for a winter salad or used in cooked dishes. Harvest the root when the top pops up out of the ground. What a fantastic way to add colour to a yummy dinner.



Celery

An essential for the winter veggie garden. A good stew or soup just isn't the same without celery. Plant seedlings for a head start so the plants have a chance to grow before the frosts begin. Protect from harsh frosts to stop the leaves from turning brown. Plant March to May for harvest in May to August. Harvest only the stalks you need and let the rest of the plant grow so that you're guaranteed fresh celery throughout winter.



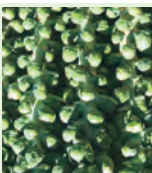
Broccoli

Plant as a seedling through the autumn and into the winter months. Make sure you put some 'Oderings Compost' down before planting to stop the leaves from turning purple. A helpful tip is when the flower head looks full, harvest it by cutting it on an angle above the leaves. Leave the rest of the plant in the ground and new smaller flower heads will grow above the leaves for you to harvest.



Garlic

A long maturing crop to have in the garden but well worth the wait. Plant the virus and disease-free cloves that you buy from Oderings from June to August/September. Harvest six months after planting. Traditionally, gardeners plant them on the shortest day and harvest them on the longest day.



Brussels sprouts

Easiest planted as seedlings, these plants keep on giving. Make sure you plant while the soil temperature is still warm to get a good crop; before May is ideal. Harvest from May right through to October. Harvest daily what you need, this will ensure every meal has the freshest Brussels sprouts.



Leeks

If you want to have leeks to harvest in winter make sure you get them in before May. Plants as a seedling, then you don't have to thin them out. Leeks will benefit from 'Oderings Compost' before planting. A good tip is to plant in a deep hole with a toilet paper roll around it to stop the soil touching the stem. This will give you nice white stems come harvest time.



Cabbage

Grown year round, this hardy vegetable will add colour, texture to a meal and can be used in so many ways. We grow winter hardy varieties that when planted in autumn will be ready for harvest in winter.



Lettuce

There are many lettuce varieties that grow well over the winter period. All of our lettuce seedlings that we grow at this time of the year will withstand those cold days and frosty nights. Plant lettuce as seedlings through autumn and winter for salads throughout the cold season.

PATCH

Have fun in the garden this winter!



Onions

Though onions are not harvested during the winter months it is the cold days and nights that they need to produce juicy stems. You can plant them as seedlings so you don't have to thin them out later, or else grow them from seed. Plant them anytime from February through to the end of August and harvest when the leaves start turning yellow.



Parsnip

Sow parsnip from seed at any time of the year. If you want them ready for harvest through winter sow the seed at least four months beforehand, so sow the seed from March through to May. If you sow at eight weekly intervals you can have a continuous harvest.



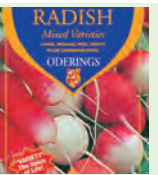
Peas

There are so many different varieties to choose from and the majority will grow well in the cooler days of autumn and winter. Unless the peas are a dwarf variety, provide support for them to grow up. Once the plant reaches a good height, pinch leaves out of the top to encourage a bushier plant that has high production. Sow from seed, or plant as seedlings from April through to November. Harvest from June onwards.



Potatoes

Start sprouting them in the garage or in a cool, shady, protected place in August for the earliest of the new potatoes. The shoots are very frost tender so make sure you provide extra frost protection as well as pea-straw around the new plants.



Radish

One of the fastest and easiest veggies to grow. The time from seed to harvest is about a month. Sow them at any time of the year, the cold weather does not 'faze' these spicy veggies. Use the younger leaves in salads and sandwiches and the root for the same or in stir-fries.



Silver beet/Rainbow beet

Grows all year round and the cold winter days are no problem for these hardy veggies. Plant them as seedlings in April for autumn and winter harvest. Cut off the leaves you need and let the rest of the plant grow so you have fresh veggies for every meal. As the leaves get too large cut them off to encourage new growth. Rainbow beet is slightly sweeter and has amazing colours, a 'must' for any winter veggie plot.



Spinach

Pretty much the same as silver beet. Young leaves can be used in salads or cooked in a wide range of dishes. We grow perpetual spinach seedlings which will keep you well supplied over the winter days.



Sprouts

Try growing some veggies inside this winter. We sell a great fresh sprout propagator and a good selection of sprout seeds. They can be used fresh in winter salads, sandwiches or thrown in with a stir-fry. They are so versatile, quick and incredibly easy to grow they are a great way to add vegetables into your winter diet. Setting up the propagator would also make a fantastic activity for the kids to do on a cold winter's day.

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