

**ODERINGS**

The First Name In Good Gardens



# Live & Grow

ISSUE 29 SPRING/SUMMER 2012

COMPLIMENTARY COPY



WHAT'S NEW | COLOUR TRENDS | SPRING MUST HAVES

**PETUNIA**

# Rhythm & Blues

Create extraordinary baskets and dazzling planters, patios or garden borders.

Rock into spring with this new exclusive from

**ODERINGS**

The First Name In Good Gardens

**Rhythm & Blues is a mounding, trailing petunia, packing a bounty of flowers that have a rare icy-blue colour with a white picotee edge.**

This petunia will surprise with both its standout bold colour and its long flowering season from spring until autumn.

'Rhythm & Blues' is hitting all the right notes at Oderings. The dark blue flowers are almost purple, and sport a thin creamy-white picotee edge, which makes this flower simply pop with vibrancy.

Consider planting them with a combination of the cream coloured 'French Vanilla Marigold' or make a big statement and plant with vibrant orange marigolds or beautiful white salvias.

To create a landscape full of colour plant them in groups in the garden, or let them gently tumble over the edge of your planters, containers or hanging baskets.



## Petunia Steps to Success

Soil preparation will be the key to your happiness with these new petunias.

- 1 Planted in raised beds or in the garden, incorporate 10 to 20 cm of 'Oderings Compost' and add a slow release fertiliser. Feed with light, frequent applications of a slow release fertiliser such as 'Oderings Total Replenish'.
- 2 When planting in pots, containers or hanging baskets use 'Oderings Shrub & Tub Mix'. This has extra water retaining agents so you don't need to water as often. Every two months add 'Oderings Total Replenish' to keep the plants producing plenty of flowers.

Purchase in store or order online at

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

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

**NEW**

# Rambler Impatiens

## Digging In

with Daniel



Daniel Hart  
Havelock North

If you have not previously realised it, I am a Christchurch-born lad now living in the beautiful, sunny and definitely warmer Hawke's Bay. It never ceases to amaze me how diverse New Zealand is with its growing conditions. Let's take Impatiens for instance. In Christchurch it's only really warm enough to grow them properly from late November so they reach a height of around 20-30 cm. In Havelock North, and the rest of the North Island planting in late September is usually all right and the plants grow to 60-80 cm, I've seen them as big as one metre in Hamilton. So, as you can see, there is quite a difference in planting time and heights. Because of this difference these new dwarf, cascading varieties are going to be available in packs of six the for the North Island Oderings stores and potted colour for the South.

It's so hard finding colourful cascading bedding plants for the shade that will flower all the way through the warmer months. Until now most of the beautiful traditional cascading plants liked full sun and didn't flower very well in the shade. New arrivals in 2012 include two cascading Impatiens, Impatiens 'Cascade Mixed' accompanied by 'Cascade Pure White'. With a true cascading habit, which grows outwards instead of upwards, these new cascading Impatiens will be perfect for the North Island because their small stature will add a brilliant display of bright colour to any basket, tub, pot or window box you want to beautify. This is one of the most exciting varieties of the year and Oderings welcome the world's first cascading or trailing Impatiens.



To grow these Impatiens plant them in a partly shaded position. Good drainage is essential to growing the best Impatiens; if they get too much water on a regular basis they will become susceptible to 'dampening off' fungi, so a careful watering programme is a must for success. 'Oderings Potting Mix' is perfect for Impatiens and regular spraying is also important to prevent fungus or aphids establishing. Don't leave your hanging baskets dormant this spring, be the envy of your friends, you'll have it all – flower power, daintiness and most of all a wave of spring and summer colour.



**NEW**

# Petunia *Blue Pearl*

Petunias, petunias, petunias, that's all we seem to be talking about in spring these days. They are amongst the most, if they are not the most, popular of all bedding plants because of the abundance of the colourful flowers, which put on such a glorious display year after year. This spring Oderings brings you another exciting new discovery – Petunia 'Blue Pearl'. This new variety was bred by us at Oderings Havelock North and is a New Zealand exclusive. 'Blue Pearl' has a beautiful, brilliant, cascading form and a true mounding, creeping habit. Its flowers are stunning and unique in a beautiful shade of a shimmering pearly blue to purple fading to a pinkish-purple. This new Petunia is ideal for hanging baskets, cascading over walls, in pots and containers, in patio planters or anywhere a wave of cool colour is required. It is disease resistant and simply a 'must have' for 2012. To see the ideal growing conditions please refer to the article on the Petunia 'Black Out' (page 6).



**NEW**

# Salvia *Ruby Red*

Too often in the bedding plant industry today we see seed companies compromising on the garden performance of their varieties to keep growers happy with things like compact growth, or early flowering and uniformity. All this means nothing when you, the customer, plant something in your garden that lasts only a short while and then it is past its best. Salvia 'Ruby Red' is a beautiful F1 hybrid that is new for 2012 and is an exception to this rule. I know this because I trialed it in my garden, in Havelock North, last year. I planted it as a border plant in early October and it bloomed non-stop until our first frost in May. 'Ruby Red' is drought tolerant and handled my slack watering regimen well. It proved to be pretty tough, but like all Salvias was frost tender. It produced masses of spikes of rich, deep, blood-red flowers on strong stems with a mounded foliage habit.

This Salvia is great for window boxes, cottage gardens, borders, rockeries and is even nicer in pots or bowls on your deck or patio. The plant requires only a small amount of deadheading to keep flourishing. Salvia 'Ruby Red' adds a gorgeous, rich blast of bright red to any garden and in the summer time the butterflies will fall in love with this pretty annual. Oderings is now selling these in our 'nine-pack' range. Plant them in full sun with well-drained soil. If 'diamonds are a girl's best friend' then this 'ruby red' is a gardener's little gem.



# Are you ready for a

# BLACK OUT

## Digging In

with Daniel



Daniel Hart  
Havelock North



A New Zealand first and a 'must have' in your garden for 2012 is the world's premiere of Petunia 'Black Velvet'. When we think of plants and flowers we never think of black. It seems that nature shies away from black and we are yet to find a truly black plant. Some plants may look black but in fact they are shades of chocolate, midnight blue, dark red or deep purple. Petunia 'Black Velvet' is best described as a shimmering black with burgundy undertones. It is a beautiful unique Petunia with a uniform, mounding habit and is excellent planted in pots, tubs, and baskets or as a border in the garden.

If nature shies away from black, why is it such a popular colour in the garden? It's simple really, by using the dark tones sporadically throughout, you will frame the garden and make everything else around it stand out. I must say in the past I have found the colour black in the garden to be quite disappointing *en masse* because it just doesn't stand out enough for my liking. But black next to colours that may normally get lost amongst the foliage or flowers of other plants e.g. green, lime, purple, pink or orange will make both colours pop with vibrancy.

As my beautiful wife always tells me 'black goes with anything' and it holds true for this Petunia. The combination that is my personal favourite as an avid Crusader supporter is red and black. I'm going to try this combination in the garden this year if my Auckland-born wife doesn't put a stop to it. I may also need to keep an eye on my son to make sure he does not change it to yellow and black since he supports the Hurricanes, being a Hawke's Bay-born child.

To ensure your Petunias flourish, have impressive flower power and perform all summer long, don't kill them with kindness. Petunias love a warm, dry, sunny spot; well-drained soil is essential. Petunias benefit from a well-balanced fertiliser like 'Oderings Total Replenish' and also from incorporating 'Oderings Compost' into the garden at preparation time. The cascading varieties in baskets require more food and water than other varieties if you want continuous flowering through the heat of summer. Contrary to belief, Petunias are hardy and will tolerate frosts. The main things that will kill Petunias are slugs, snails and over-watering.

The 'Black Velvet' Petunia has something for everyone, fragrance, colour, beauty, fantastic performance and vigour. So add black to your planting combinations this season for a display that is sure to impress.

# Bouncing Zucchini

Oderings latest addition to their range of vegetables is the delectable, tennis ball zucchini. These are smooth, green or yellow zucchinis that are just like the traditional ones only round in shape. As the name suggests, this little wonder produces a prolific crop of tantalizing, round zucchinis perfect for adding interest to any meal.



Tennis ball zucchini grow on a compact plant making it ideal for the smaller garden or fantastic for growing in a pot or container. It can even be grown up a trellis or frame with a little help by tying the plant in. If you decide to grow these little gems in a pot or container use our combined blend of potting mix and compost, 'Oderings Tomato & Veggie Mix'. This will give the plants all they need to grow and produce an amazing crop. Of course you can also use this mix in the ground to give your plants that 'something extra'.

Zucchini can be planted anytime after the last frost, from the end of October up until the end of January. They prefer to be planted in a warm, sunny spot that has good drainage. Prepare the soil properly before planting and you will be rewarded with an abundant yield. The best way to prepare the soil is to dig in a well-broken down compost like our 40 litre bags of 'Oderings Compost' about a week before planting.

Water the seedlings in when planting and keep the plant well-watered while it's fruiting. Do not overwater and try to avoid watering the leaves to prevent mildew. Add a good slow release fertiliser like 'Oderings Garden Replenish' about a month after planting. This will give the plant all the nutrients it needs to fruit right through the growing season.

Harvesting can be anytime from flowering (yes the flowers are edible) to the time when the zucchini are about 100mm in diameter. Just like the traditional zucchini if you leave them to get too big and mature they will become a marrow. The best time to harvest them is when they are the size of a tennis ball, this will provide you with a mouth watering vegetable perfect for cutting up in a stir fry, cooking on the BBQ, steaming, sautéing, cutting into relish or using in my favourite stuffed zucchini recipe (see my recipe at the below), yum! The best part is the more you harvest the zucchini the more flowers the plant produce and the more vegetables there are for the table.

## Vanessa's special stuffed zucchini

6 round zucchini  
300g mince  
100g feta cheese broken into crumbs  
½ cup cooked rice  
1 clove garlic  
¼ cup chopped fresh oregano  
2-3 rashers of chopped bacon  
5 tbsps chopped sundried tomatoes  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Grated cheese for on top

### Method

Preheat oven to 180 degrees Celsius.  
Cut the top out of the round zucchini and scoop out the 'meaty' centre into a large bowl, leaving a thick layer around the skin as it is more tender in the round zucchini than in the traditional ones. Mash the raw zucchini with a fork. Brown the mince, bacon and garlic together in a frying pan. Combine the browned mince mixture with all the other ingredients in a bowl, including the mashed zucchini. Mix well. Scoop this mixture into the hollow shells of the zucchini and sprinkle with a little grated cheese. Any left over stuffing can be formed into meat patties and fried.  
Bake for 30 minutes or until browned on top and serve with a crisp green salad.



# ODERINGS MEGA TOM

Do you know what a *grafted tomato* is?



Grafted tomatoes are created by merging two different varieties of tomato plants together, the rootstock and scion. The rootstock provides the strength of any grafted tomato; the scion is the part that produces beautiful tasty fruit. Grafting the two tomatoes together provides the vitality, sap flow and extra disease resistant qualities needed to give high yields of fruit.

Grafted tomatoes are used extensively by commercial growers worldwide. We at Oderings have selected one of the most durable and popular rootstocks used by worldwide growers and have combined it with 12 different popular scions.

Grafted 'Mega Tom' tomatoes are only available throughout Oderings stores. We recommend our 'Mega Tom' grafted tomatoes for both experienced and new gardeners; they are so easy to grow that even young children will enjoy planting and caring for them.

## Why choose a Mega Tom over a normal tomato?

The main reason for choosing a grafted tomato is for the volume of tomatoes that a grafted plant can produce, at least double that of a normal variety. Because of the strong rootstock 'Mega Toms' have greater disease resistance and therefore minimal spraying is required.

## General Care of your tomatoes (not just grafted tomatoes)

**Temperature:** The optimum temperature for tomatoes is 18-22 degrees Celsius; they do not like temperatures below 10 degrees Celsius. However, they will survive if it occasionally drops to five degrees Celsius. If planting in pots or bags you should use a size equivalent of PB28 or PB40 planter bag. Tomatoes are sun loving plants. If your tomato fruits are not ripening it is most likely caused by low light levels.

**Soil:** For best results plant in 'Oderings Potting Mix' or 'Oderings Tomato & Veggie Mix'; this will keep watering manageable and help keep diseases and weeds to a minimum.

**Feeding:** Do not fertilise plants until they are one metre tall or start fruiting. We recommend 'Oderings Garden Replenish' or 'Wally's Secret Tomato Food'. 'Neem Granules' around the base of the plant are helpful for pest control, reapply every three to six weeks.

**Watering:** Give tomatoes plenty of water directly onto the soil, not on the leaves as that can encourage disease. Adding a layer of mulch or placing a weed mat around the base can help conserve moisture and suppress weeds. Never keep plants wet, but water regularly to encourage firm fruit. A good point to remember is to water your plant a little less at harvest time; this makes the fruit sweeter and tastier.

**Removing laterals:** Too many shoots inhibit fruit development, therefore, lateral shoots need to be removed regularly. Once the tomato has reached 1.8m, the top of your stake or the top of your greenhouse, pinch out the tips. No laterals should be left to grow and they should all be pinched out.

**Pests:** The biggest problem affecting tomatoes and potatoes today is a psyllid which migrated from Mexico and was first discovered in Auckland in 2006. This is a major pest which will affect the size and quality of your crop, making them wrinkled and stunted and will eventually spread to

# Grafted Tomato Plants

other potatoes and tomatoes, killing your crops. This psyllid is resistant to nearly all chemical sprays. The best cure for these nasty insects is to prevent their arrival on your plants in the first place. I recommend 'Neem Granules' applied at three to six weekly intervals. These will prevent both psyllid and other nasty insect infestations. I cannot stress how strongly I feel that every vegetable patch should incorporate 'Neem Granules' with their plantings, it is the only product that I never forget to use in our vegetable patch. Yates has also registered 'Mavrik' as a spray to eliminate these psyllids and is the only registered products available for this purpose. 'Mavrik' has low toxicity to bees and a low withholding period before you can consume the fruit.



## NEW in 2012

**Bambino** A highly productive truss variety with sweet-flavoured, rick-red 50g fruit.

## Oderings Grafted Tomato 'Mega Toms'

### Sweet 100

This is our most popular tomato and is a cherry type, each fruit weighing approximately 13g. It Produces large numbers of blanched clusters of fruit, each cluster producing up to 100 fruits.

### Sweet Delights

Round, firm and dark red in colour with average 50g size of cocktail-type tomato. Truss production is high and regular with strong green stems giving this tomato an easy to manage habit.

### Taupo

The fruit are slightly rounded and weigh about 95g. The plant tolerates lower temperatures and is both high yielding and robust, cropping over a long period.

### Tasty Treats

Producing flatter round-shaped fruit and weigh approximately 100g. The plant is vigorous and offers very regular, uniform production as well as flavoursome fruit.

### Money Maker

Large vigorous plants produce round shaped fruit of about 100g and are one of the most popular varieties. It possesses excellent disease resistance.

### Virosia

Medium rounded 120g tasty fruits. Very early producer with compact height and habit, it is also capable of very high yields and is very easy to grow.

### Potentate

New Zealand grown from seed of a favourite old English variety. Its claim to fame is early blossoming and fruit set on bottom trusses, making it ideal for earlier outdoor planting. Fruit weigh 130g.

### Dr. Walter

This is a superior beef steak style tomato producing low acid fruit of 130g and is a vigorous grower and is one of the best tomatoes for the BBQ.

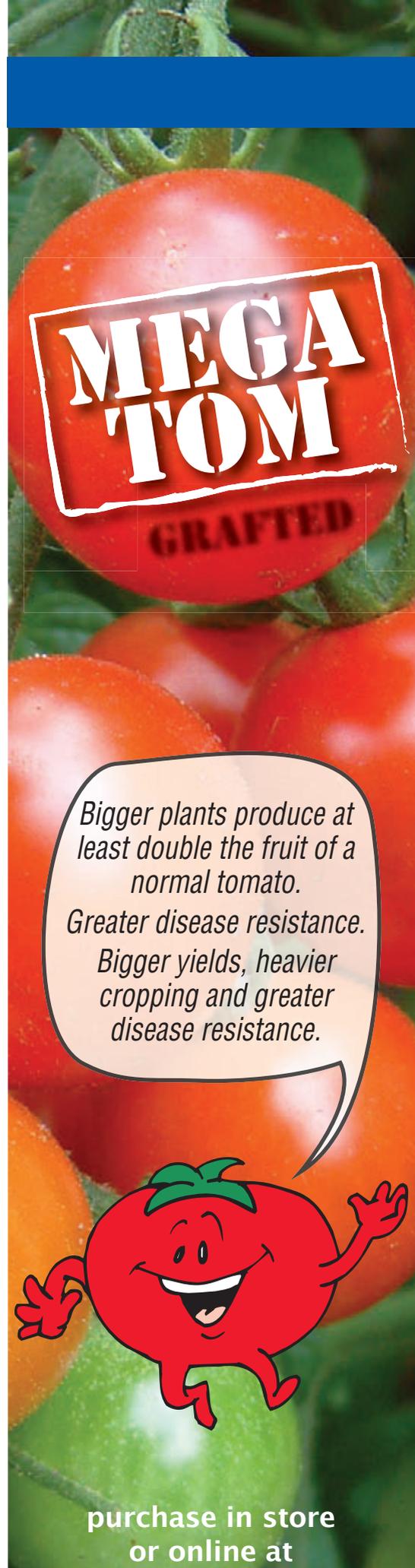
### Beef Steak

Plants are multi-disease resistant and produce high yields of large (approximately 250 to 350g) and very tasty fruit.

### Roma

Plum shaped acid free, medium-sized fruit of 100g. An early producing and high yielding plant which is suitable to use for cooking.

**Strawberry Bells** Fantastic for salads or snacks, this heart-shaped cherry tomato is high yielding with trusses of 25g weight, evenly coloured tomatoes.



*Bigger plants produce at least double the fruit of a normal tomato.*

*Greater disease resistance.*

*Bigger yields, heavier cropping and greater disease resistance.*



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# What's New



Dianthus 'Angel of Harmony'



Dianthus 'Angel of Joy'

## Dianthus Scent from Heaven Series

Oderings are introducing two, new and delightful Dianthus to this popular series both of which have inherited the same tidy habit and strong scent:

**Dianthus 'Angel of Harmony'** – a deep burgundy, fully double flower.

**Dianthus 'Angel of Joy'** – a crisp white and burgundy, double picotee flower.

## ▼ Lavender 'Ruffles' Series

We are pleased to offer another very compact Lavandula stoechas. The 'ruffles' series is renowned for its easy growth and masses of flowers in interesting colours, here is a new one:

**Lavender 'Mulberry Ruffles'** – very deep burgundy red florets topped with ruffled plummy purple wings.



## Gerbera Garvinea Series

This brilliant range of outdoor Gerberas is perfect in a perennial garden. Unlike other Gerberas extreme cold will kill off the foliage but being fully perennial they will burst back to life the following spring.

**Gerbera Garvinea 'Valerie'** – a stunning new addition featuring larger flowers in a very pretty soft coral pink.

## Gloves

Oderings have added to the already popular range of gloves, and these new additions are simply brilliant.



**Magnus-X Storm** – ideal for winter, cold and wet weather work, landscaping and outdoor activities. One of the Oderings family bikes to work and he said he wears them for cycling because they keep his hands warm, are not bulky and remain dry since they are water repellent and wind resistant.



**Magnus-X Tradie** – ideal for home maintenance and yard work, they are breathable, have Velcro wrist straps for a comfortable and secure fit and are tough and durable.



## Grevillea 'Fire Cracker'

This superb new form of Grevillea has a compact, rounded habit with small evergreen foliage that is soft to the touch. The fiery-coloured flowers appear through spring and summer and make a stunning display. Like most Grevilleas it is frost hardy once established.

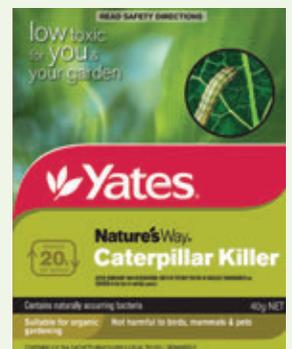
## Roundup Weedkiller Gel

One of the best new products I have seen in a while. I hate having to spot spray certain weeds in the lawn and garden. A one handed easy to use applicator offers precise and controlled use. One hundred percent of the gel is applied and sticks to the leaf, with no run off thus reducing the risk to other plants.



## Nature's Way Caterpillar Killer

Contains a naturally occurring bacterium. While it does not kill caterpillars immediately, it does stop them from eating treated foliage and three to four days later they die. Nature's Way products are based on natural, low toxicity organic ingredients that are eco-friendly for you and your garden.

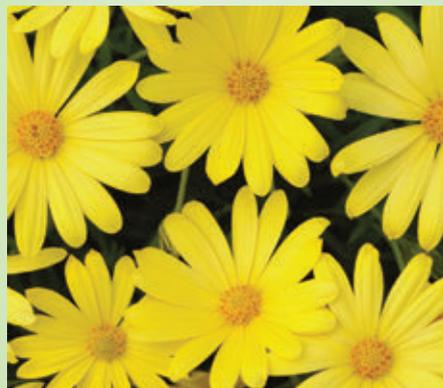


Spring is exciting this year with new introductions of plant and products to satisfy one and all.



### Gardenia 'Crown Jewel'

This essence of timeless beauty possesses many desirable traits. Double blooms have a soft texture and are extremely fragrant. The plant is cold hardy, has a dwarf spreading habit and is ideal for indoors or out.



### Osteospermum 'Voltage'

Decorate your garden with this gorgeous colour and texture. The bright yellow daisy-like flowers are one of the first to bloom in spring and last well throughout summer and into autumn.

### Hotsa

This spring there are four new additions to the ever popular hosta range for your shaded garden or woodland areas.



'Empress Wu' – is a giant with huge, thick, dark green, deeply veined leaves held in strong, upright clumps. The flowers are a pale reddish-violet flowers.



### Petunia 'Bumble Bee'

A sleek and sophisticated Petunia with a colour combination of a black base and distinctive yellow star that is blushed with dark purple/pink around the edges. It flowers early and continues to flower through spring and summer.



### Petunia 'Rhythm & Blues'

The flower have a stunning, eye-catching combination of a deep purple-blue with a white picotee edge. This petunia is a mounding, trailing Petunia which will create extraordinary baskets and dazzling planters or garden borders.



'Hudson's Bay' – wide, bright blue-green margins and apple green jetting on thick leaves contrast with creamy white flowers.



'Purple Heart' – glossy lime-green leaves, spotted with red-purple in the leaf base. This is one of the most neat, uniform Hostas.

### Whitemans Dianthus

Striking new varieties of Dianthus have become available from the world's renowned Dianthus breeder Whitemans. The flowers have amazing rich colours as well as being compact and can be enjoyed indoors or out. The range includes 'Candy Floss', 'Coconut Sundae', 'Passion', 'Rosebud' and 'Sugar Plum'.



Candy Floss



Coconut Sundae



Passion



Rosebud



Sugar Plum

### 'Raspberry Sundae'

– a lovely compact plant with beautifully variegated leaves and striking deep burgundy petioles, leaf bases and flower stalks. The flowers are a deep lavender-purple.



What an unrecognised source of visual pleasure the Kalmia are. Like most plants that I love they need to perform well in the garden and like a lot of the plants that I end up loving, it is one that was planted in my mum's garden.

Kalmias are generally not known by the younger generation of gardeners as we tend to stick to current trends. For some time now there has been a focus on easy care plants that offer little colour in flowers, but some colour in foliage. What if I was to tell you that Kalmias are extremely easy to care for, and are smothered with flowers in spring and early summer? I took this photo of Mum's Kalmia a few years ago, and guess what care it receives – none, not even a trim.

# Kalmia

Kalmia are a family of around eight evergreen shrubs that originate from the Ericaceae family (ericas or heathers) and are closely related to the rhododendrons. Much like camellias and rhododendrons they like acidic soils, but unlike these counter parts they can handle full sun, although they prefer dappled shade. They are frost hardy and need well-drained soil.

The plant is said to grow 2-5m tall, however, Mum's Kalmia has been in the garden for a number of years and is still only 1.2 metres tall by one metre wide, so I would suggest you think of it in this size bracket as they are relatively slow growing. If desired they can be trimmed to keep the height low.

The real feature of this plant is its flowers. *Kalmia latifolia* is the most popular and common kalmia available and offers petite, pink flower buds which last a week before opening to delightfully dainty, cup-shaped, pale pink flowers, which eventually fade to white. Even though I adore the flowers, the foliage offers year round interest and is dense and lush. This plant is toxic to stock animals and humans when eaten, but not to household pets such as cats and dogs. I'm not sure if what makes it toxic also deters pest and diseases but this plant is rarely troubled by pests.

Plant a Kalmia to enjoy a rare, delicate beauty that is often hard to find in the garden today.





# Streptocarpus

## *Cape Primrose*

The Streptocarpus is also known as the Cape Primrose and is increasing in popularity as an indoor house plant due to its beautiful flower power.

Even though there are five different species of Streptocarpus that occur in South Africa, only one is cultivated as a houseplant, Streptocarpus 'Constant Nymph' from which today's hybrids are derived.

The attractive flowers are borne on upright stems with at least four to five per stem. These clusters of long-lasting trumpet-shaped flowers have a backward sloping habit, making them extremely distinctive. The stems rise above elongated, dark green, glossy leaves with fine white hairs.



Today's Streptocarpus, which are the new improved cultivars, have a wide colour range from vivid reds, pinks and blues through to two-tone colours such as purple with a yellow throat and white with a lemon throat, all of which flower for longer than the older varieties.

To get the best from your Streptocarpus plants place them in a warm, bright spot out of direct sunlight and cold drafts. You need to let the soil surface dry out slightly between each watering but during spring and summer you will need to water more frequently. Streptocarpus leaves are susceptible to burning because of their fine white hairs, and therefore can burn in bright sun, by watering in the cooler hours or the morning you will help to avoid this. Feed your Streptocarpus once a month with a liquid fertiliser that is high in potash such as 'Thrive Fruit & Flower'. To promote new flowers cut the spent flower stems at the base of the plant.

Keep an eye out for the new season's bright and attractive Streptocarpus in your local Odeings store.

**WOULDN'T  
IT BE GREAT  
IF YOU  
COULD  
JUST TOUCH  
A WEED  
TO KILL IT.**



## Now you can with new Roundup Gel

The pack fits in the palm of your hand, it's so precise and controlled, it won't harm nearby plants or soil. A touch kills the weed down to the root - it's never going to grow back making it perfect for treating weeds in difficult places such as flower beds, paths and weeds in your lawn. New Roundup Gel. **A touch is all it takes.**



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Petunia 'Raspberry Blast'

Generally when we think of flowers we think of set colours e.g. blue, white, pink, red, or yellow, but what about the unsung heroes which have bi-coloured flowers. (This, means flowers having two colours.) The reason bi-coloured flowers are so good in the garden is because one of the colours makes the other stand out thus creating a bold and dramatic display. Some of my favourite garden plants are bi-coloured, and a cost effective way of adding bi-coloured plants to the garden is to plant perennials. Why not try some of the following plants in your garden and see for yourself the dramatic and dynamic display they provide?



Myosotidum hortensia



Osteospermum

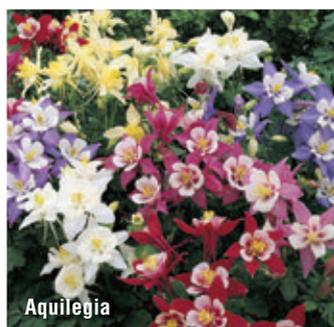
if not the most important part, of a trend is the use of colour, whether in foliage or flowers.



Gaillardia



Omphalodes Starry Eyes



Aquilegia



Pelargonium Splendide

**Myosotidum hortensia** – commonly known as Chatham Island Forget-me-not is a truly spectacular plant with flowers of the most delightful shades of blue, which rise above the big, green, glossy leaves. Plant in part- to full-shade and protect from slugs and snails. Grows to 50 cm x 50 cm.

**Pelargonium 'Splendide'** – has pansy-like flowers with bold carmine upper petals and pale pink lower, and soft grey foliage. Unique. Grows to 50 cm x 50 cm.

**Osteospermum** – the world is your oyster! Or should I say 'daisy' when it comes to the Osteospermum? Choose from, a huge range of bi-colours. Plant in full sun. Grows 30 to 60 cm high and wide.

**Omphalodes 'Starry Eyes'** – has gentian blue, star-shaped flowers with a pale lilac edge. This plant forms a vivid carpet of colour amongst shrubs in the cottage garden, in rockeries, and woodland areas or when used as an edging for garden borders. Plant Omphalodes in semi-shade. Plants will grow 15 cm to 20 cm high by 30cm wide.

**Gaillardia** – there are lots of bright and beautiful colours to choose from. Try mass planting for a tough, durable, cheerful and bright display. This drought-tolerant stunner loves full sun and grows to 30 to 50 cm high and wide.

**Aquilegia** – the common name of 'Granny's Bonnet' suits this plant because it seems that when you are gardening the flowers nod their approval in the breeze. Once again there is a huge selection of colour combinations to choose from. Plant it in full sun to part shade in cottage gardens, woodland areas or scattered amongst shrubs. Grow 30 cm x 30 cm.

**Gaura 'Whirling Butterflies'** – has delightfully dainty flowers with a mid pink throat fading to light pink, almost white petals. Gaura is particularly beautiful in cottage gardens or planted as a second

tier in the perennial garden, with flowers that seem to float. It likes full sun and grows up to 1m x 1m. Trim well after flowering.

**Gazania** – this easy care, durable plant makes it easy to have a bright garden. There are man colour combinations to choose from. The plant grows approximately 30 cm x 30 cm.

**Petunia** – we all know and love perennial petunias. Have a look on the 'What's New' page for the new colour combinations. One of my all-time favourite perennial petunias is 'Raspberry Blast'. Plant petunias in containers/pots, hanging baskets or use them as a groundcover in the garden.



Gaura Whirling Butterflies



Gazania

# Spring season must have

Whether you are new to gardening or an old hand there are certain materials you must have for your garden each season. Spring is probably one of the busiest seasons when we are planting, weeding, spraying and maintaining the garden. Aside from the basic tools, there are in my opinion some 'must have' garden products that can easily be overlooked.

## Scotts Lawn Spreader

Save precious time when fertilising your lawn by using this product. I have an average-sized lawn, and if I spread my lawn fertiliser by hand it takes 30-40 minutes to get a thorough application. With this nifty, wee hand-held product it takes five minutes – what a difference!

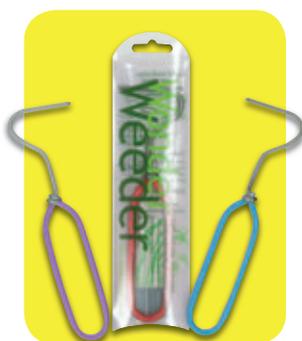


## Prickle Weed/Onhunga Weed

If you don't spray before this nasty little weed flowers then the plants set the seed (prickles) for the following year. You need to spray in October before the plants flower. A great all-round spray that will combat the prickle weed and other weeds at the same time is 'Turfclean'.

## Wonder Weeder

For under \$6 you can have one of the best little weeders that you will ever find. The only problem is that we gardeners carelessly leave them behind somewhere in the garden, but once you have used this product you will love it.



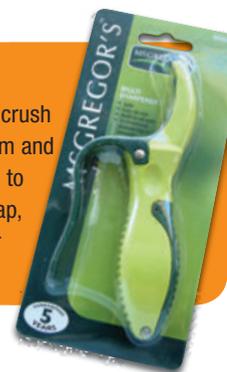
## Grass Grubs

To combat grass grubs you need to apply granules that contain Diazinon. The grass grubs come to the surface from late October through to January/February and need to be treated while they are eating so that they cannot turn into a beetle and lay more eggs. Grass grubs can stay dormant in the soil for a number of years, so if you have grass grubs you should treat the area for three consecutive springs/summers to eradicate them.



## Secateur sharpeners

Blunt secateurs mean that you crush rather than cut when using them and this opens your precious plants to diseases. A sharpener is a cheap, cost effective way to keep your tools cutting cleanly.



## Fertilisers

To get you through the growing season there are a few fertilisers that are a 'must have'. For pots, planters, containers and hanging baskets use 'Oderings Total Replenish'. 'Oderings Garden Replenish' is good for both vegetable and general gardens. For the lawn, use either 'Oderings Lawn Replenish' or 'Scotts Lawn Builder'. For strawberries, use Tui 'Strawberry Fertiliser' or use 'Oderings Total Replenish' and add potash to encourage the flowers and fruit. For potatoes you must use a root crop fertiliser, so apply either 'Potato Fertiliser' or



add superphosphate at the time of planting. The only fertiliser I use for tomatoes are 'Wally's Secret Tomato Fertiliser with Neem Granules'. For fruit trees and citrus use Fruit Tree & Citrus Fertiliser or 'Oderings Garden Replenish' and add potash.

# e products'

## Sprays

There are certain sprays that are needed for your fruit trees, ornamentals and roses. But with so many to choose from how do you know which the best all-purpose sprays are? Here is a set of sprays that you should have on hand in your shed at all time to combat just about all insects and funguses.

For natural products our top choice for an insecticide is 'Beat A Bug', followed closely by spraying oil and copper as a fungicide.

For chemical sprays use: 'Yates Mavrik' for edible crops as it has a low withholding period, 'Confidor' for sucking insects and 'Guardall' which combines an insecticide with a fungicide and is a preventative as well as a curative spray. Of course there is also the old favourite 'Shield' which is great for roses and ornamentals. All sprays should be alternated for best results.



## Neem Granules

I have raved about Neem Granules in magazine after magazine including this one, but that is only because they work. We have (or had, until we had a baby recently) a self-sustainable garden and aside from fertiliser this is the only insect deterrent we use. It is a natural product and what more can you ask for?



## Slug Bait

It is essential in spring to stop slugs and snails eating your new petunias, vegetables or any other goodies they can get their mouth around. Remember if you have children, pets or if you want to protect wildlife the only slug bait that is safe is Quash.



# BEAT BUGS

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## Beat A Bug Insect spray

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# Peas & Beans

Whether you have a large plot or you grow your vegetables in pots and containers, peas and beans are a 'must have' and are so easy to grow that even the kids can do it.

I think there is nothing better than going out to pick and eat fresh peas and beans right off the vine. There is a variety you can try, ranging from dwarf to climbers, which you can sow anytime between August and December, with beans you can sow right into February. Most peas and beans will germinate with-in 7-10 days of sowing and will mature between 60-90 days, some will mature even faster.

## Dwarf

Dwarf varieties are available in both peas and beans making them an ideal choice for growing in pots and containers. My favourite dwarf pea is 'Massey', which doesn't require staking and matures in only 65 days. It produces a prolific crop on a small plant.

There are three great dwarf varieties of beans, the smallest of which is 'Dwarf Baby Bush', the plant grows to only 300 mm tall but still produces 100 mm pods - amazing. 'Dwarf Scarlet Pimpernel' is one of the prettiest beans with red and white flowers on a compact plant and produces a good yield. Finally 'Dwarf Tendergreen' is stringless and very tender - a real winner in my book.

## Climbing

There are many different climbing beans and peas available. The climbing varieties produce massive

crops on vigorous plants. Beans come in a range of colours, green, yellow, red and even purple. Come into our stores to see the complete range, or visit our online shop for seeds at [www.oderings.co.nz](http://www.oderings.co.nz). Whether you plant in the garden or containers, try using an obelisk, a very attractive yet practical feature.

The best advice I can give you for growing peas and beans is to prepare the soil well and provide good support for the plants. Before sowing or planting dig in a good amount of 'Oderings Compost' and set up the frame-work for the plant to grow on. All climbing beans will naturally wrap around and climb up your structure, but make sure it is low enough to get them started. Once they are hooked on they will do their own thing with little assistance from you. Remember the structure needs to be strong enough to support the plants throughout the growing season. Halfway through the growing season feed you beans and peas with 'Oderings Total Replenish' or a good general fertiliser to extend their production.

Children enjoy growing peas and beans because you can see results and reap the rewards relatively quickly. For the kids, or your inner child, try growing 'Sugar snap' peas or 'Snow' peas. These are juicy and can be eaten pod and all fresh or put in stir-fries' and other dishes. They are nice and sweet for a healthy, tasty snack. Enjoy.



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