

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome back to another exciting issue of 'Oderings Live & Grow'. Firstly as promised, my husband and I were happy to have a baby boy at the end of February whom we named Ethan. The Oderings family are also blessed to announce the arrival of babies Indie, Ruby and Ezra, all within three months of each other. It seems that we are as good at growing our budding families as we are at growing plants.

I must say we have some exciting stuff happening in this issue. Our Havelock North production team have bred the world's first double black petunia, which is named Petunia 'Dark Heart'. This is a perennial petunia exclusive to Oderings, in-store or online. This issue is dominated by new products, with over half the magazine introducing new plants and products, and I know you are going to love a lot of them, as I do.

Vanessa, at Oderings Napier, built a pallet garden for this magazine issue. One of her customers saw her making it and decided to give it a try. Have a look at the results; they are impressive, and so affordable to build yourselves.

If you are looking for something to do in September, you may be interested in the New Zealand Alpine Garden Society's spring show at the Christchurch Horticultural Centre on September 20th-21st. This combined spring show is an annual event showcasing the New Zealand Alpine Garden Society, the Christchurch Daffodil Circle and the Canterbury Rhododendron Society to the wider public. For more information visit www.nzags.com

Happy planting this spring, and remember, you don't get a green thumb without pulling a few weeds first

Happy Gardening

Pamela Smith



Editor/Marketing Manager





For over 20 years Egmont has been the trusted name in horticulture, supplying nurseries and wholesalers, in fact everyone in the growing industry around New Zealand, So when choosing products for your garden, use what the



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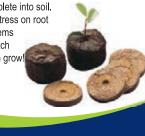


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systems - watch them grow





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Welcome to Oderings Live & Grow Issue 33

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www.oderings.co.nz

Send any comments to:

Oderings Nurseries

P.O Box 33-125, Christchurch 8244.

Email: info@oderings.co.nz



Cover Shot: Flowering cherry (Prunus)













Introducing Janice Jones, our chief hybridiser at Oderings Havelock. This issue Janice is getting excited about the stunning new petunia releases ready for spring 2014.

Last year we introduced several new varieties of pentunias, including 'Chameleon' (my favourite) along with 'Limealicious', 'Blue Pearl' and a whole lot of other exciting petunias. This year we are bringing you five new perennial petunias to spice up your gardens, containers and baskets.

The most exciting release for 2014 and what we believe is a world first is Oderings' own exclusive black petunia named 'Dark Heart'. It has very large, near-black flowers, which at times have undertones of a deep purple hue. In our trials, it had a mounding habit but did not really cascade. 'Dark Heart' is unique and will be the show piece in your garden. Petunias put on a fantastic show all season, so be the first person in your part of the world to have a double black petunia.

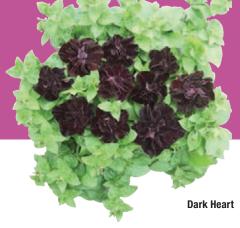
'Astra', the petunia named after the youngest daughter of Daniel, who contributes to this magazine, 'Digging In with Daniel', has lovely purple petals with a vibrant, bright-white, five-sided star pattern, washed over the top. This is a cascading variety and is magnificent in baskets and planters. 'Astra' requires a position in full sun to retain its pattern.

'Double Trouble' petunias are double perennial cascading petunias that we started to introduce last year from Europe. These gorgeous petunias produce masses of double flowers over a long period. This year we are releasing more of these petunias: 'Double Trouble Red', 'Blue' and 'Butter Cream' all of which offer the same great garden performance.

Also worth a mention, although it is not a new plant, our petunia 'Red Riding Hood' has had the white eye bred out of it and is now a pure vivid blood red.

Caring for petunias is easy. However, most people do not know that you can get a longer life out of them with regular trimming. After they start to look a bit scruffy, you should cut them back as illustrated in the pictures and they will bounce back as good as new. If you are going to keep them over winter, be careful not to over-water them, they need much less water than in summer. I generally place mine under the eaves of my house so I can control the amount of water they receive. If you leave your petunias to the mercy of the winter rain you will most likely lose them.

Petunias like to live in a warm, dryish, sunny spot although they will tolerate frosts. Welldrained soil is essential, as is a well-balanced



fertiliser like Oderings 'Total Replenish'. Incorporate Oderings 'Compost' into the garden at preparation time. Remember, however, that plants in baskets require more food and water than plants in the garden if you want continuous flowering through the heat of summer.

There are two main killers of petunias:

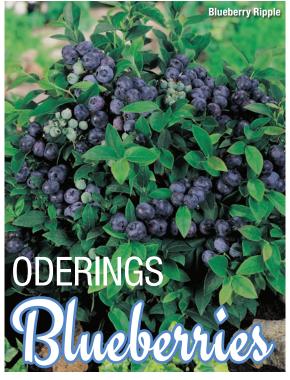
- slugs and snails (slug bait is essential).
- over watering, which leads to your plants dampening off. It is very important that they are not over-watered but nor should they be so dry that they are wilting.

chop back petunias

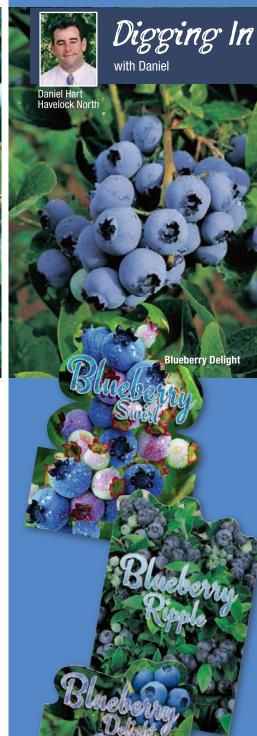












New for 2014 and exclusive to Oderings.

We have all heard of blueberries, but what a lot of us do not know is that they are easy to grow. Blueberries are a wonder food and are a fantastic addition to the garden whether you grow them as specimen plants in containers, or as a low hedge. Blueberries are full of nutrients and antioxidants. They are also low in calories and sodium, contain no cholesterol and are a great source of fibre.

New for 2014 and exclusive to Oderings are blueberry varieties: 'Swirl', 'Ripple' and 'Delight'. All three of these delicious hybrids are heavy croppers that are disease resistant and yield high quality, yummy fruit.

Blueberry Swirl Is self-fertile, meaning that the flowers can be fertilised with their own pollen (many varieties of blueberries require the presence of another variety for pollination and fruit set). 'Swirl' is one of only four late-season rabbit-eye blueberries, its flowers and fruit coming after most other varieties. It is also more heat and drought tolerant and the fruit are tasty and sweet.

Blueberry Ripple Is an upright to spreading, bushy, deciduous, northern high-bush variety with oval, glossy, dark green leaves, turning red and purple in autumn. In spring, the plant produces lots of cylindrical pink flowers that, in turn, produce heavy yields of exceptionally large, flavoursome blueberries ready for harvest in mid-summer. This variety does best when planted with other varieties.

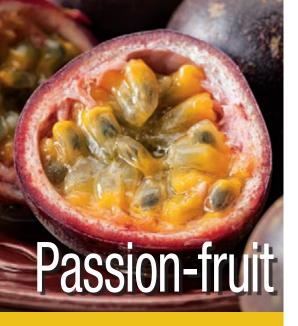
Blueberry Delight Is one of the most attractive, vigorous and high yielding southern highbush varieties with summer fruit that are medium to large, sky blue berries with a sweet and spicy flavour. The bright blue-green foliage provides a

perfect contrast to the pink and white spring flowers. This variety enjoys cool nights and yields best when planted with other varieties.

Blueberries relish a slow-release fertiliser in spring and summer, such as Oderings 'Total Replenish'. Water is vital for the full development of your berries, which swell rapidly in the last two weeks of ripening. Lack of water can mean undersized dark berries and a poor crop.

While blueberries are resistant to most diseases, it is prudent to spray to prevent mildew and cover them to protect the ripening berries from birds. The plants are hardy to minus four degrees, although frost will damage flowers.

Knowing how to prune blueberries is quite important because fruit is borne on last season's wood, and the most vigorous wood bears the largest fruit. Flower buds develop on the outer part of the current season's growth in late summer as stems mature. Minimum pruning consists of the removal of dead or damaged wood, any weak growth or twiggy old branches. Remove some of the oldest branches after four to five years to encourage new growth. While light pruning is possible year round, winter is the best time for heavy pruning.



Passion-fruit are a dessert staple in New Zealand and all I can say is "Yum!" If you love the tried-and-true, common black passion-fruit, but would like to try some other varieties, then read on because I have some good news for you. This year we are growing two more varieties of passion-fruit for your dessert and snacking pleasure.



'Golden'
Passion-fruit are even
bigger and sweeter than the
other passion-fruit varieties.
'Golden' has its name
because the outside fruit

turns yellow when ripe, and when you open the fruit, the powerful fragrance is mouth-watering.



'Banana' Passion-fruit is not

the invasive variety that is a strangler in our native bush. The leaves are thinner and longer than a normal passion-fruit and the fruit is

purple when ripe, with a delicious orange to yellow coloured pulp. New Zealand has given this variety its name because the fruit look like small bananas.

Passion-fruit are tasty fruits that are high in vitamins A, B and C. They are easy to grow as long as you have a wall to protect them from wind and a trellis for climbing support. Plant them in a frost free, sunny position, water them frequently throughout the spring and summer then prune after the last of the fruit is gone.



♦ ☐

2014 ODERINGS





Petunia 'African Sunset' is the

world's first orange petunia and is excellent in full-sun or part-shade. It is

bright, vibrant and unique. 'African Sunset' is a 'grandiflora' type meaning it has large flowers with a compact and tidy habit reaching a height of 25cm. This is a 'must have' in your garden this year.



has been one of Oderings most popular bedding plants for years and we are excited to introduce new for 2014 the world's first cream French marigold. French 'Vanilla Cream' will cover itself with an abundance of vanilla to cream coloured flowers from spring until frosts. It is fantastic in pots, baskets or in the garden as a border plant.





Have you tried broccolini yet?

This new addition to our brassica range is from Japan. It looks very similar

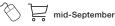
to broccoli, but has smaller florets and larger thin steams. It is ideal to sauté, boil or fry, and has a sweet flavour known for its taste of a combination of asparagus and broccoli.

We are happy to introduce a new innovative tomato – 'Sun Dried'

It is famous for its flavour and unique ability to be dried. Leave the bite sized tomatoes on the vine to dry naturally for a sweet snack, which intensifies the longer it is left to dry. This tall robust plant can grow 12-14 feet, so you need to stake it to hold the long trusses of fruit, or grow against a trellis



or similar support. You can grow 'Sundried' in containers but is better suited to the garden, and like other tomatoes you need to pinch out the laterals. 'Sundried' is not only good for snacking but in salads and omelettes too.



Osteospermum 'White Out' will

be very showy and give superb colour in any very dry area where it is normally hard to grow plants. This new variety is unique because white osteospermum normally



have a purple-eye, whereas 'White Out' has pure-white petals and a yellow eye making this little beauty stunning.



Salvia 'Victoria White' is back by

popular demand. Plant these tall growing beauties in full-sun as a nice backdrop for your garden or pots. With flower spikes that spread above the dense foliage, they make a superb cut flower. 'Victoria White' provides a nice contrast when combined with the ever popular 'Victoria Blue'.



Tuhhers











Our new beetroot 'Rainbow' colours up your dinner table. Enjoy yellow, white, pink, purple, red or ringed varieties. Each one has a deliciously sweet flavour, which either can be

enjoyed as mature roots or harvested early as tasty 'baby beets'. You can also steam the stems and leaves as an alternative to spinach. Add the young beets to your salad for a colourful crunch. They are delicious whether eaten hot, cold or pickled.



Carrot 'Rainbow'

Now that you have beetroot 'Rainbow' planted. visualise rainbow carrots. Shredded in salads or coleslaws, steamed, juiced or just peeled and eaten raw with your favourite dip,



carrots are a versatile veggie with a great source of vitamin A. Carrot 'Rainbow' is low maintenance as long as basic care is provided with full-sun and water. They say we eat with our eyes and these carrots have six different colours to tempt you. North Island only.



North Island only



Broccoli 'Purple Sprouted' was a vegetable I came across when I visited a grower in Australia last year. You may be thinking, 'Not

another broccoli', but 'Purple Sprouted' is awesome for three reasons. The first is like all modified in any way. They are purple so they add a different colour to your plate and, best of all, as the name suggests, it keeps on sending up more sprouts, so you get more vegetable for your dollar.

Oderings veggies they are not genetically

In the North Island only we are introducing the tomato 'Heart Breaker'

If any of you know my wife you will be aware that she is crazy about four things, the kids, me, the colour pink, and hearts; so I have decided to grow a small amount of this



new tomato as a trial for 2014. 'Heart Breaker' tastes sweet and juicy and when cut in half looks like two little hearts, making it excellent for culinary displays and harnessing your artistic cooking talent. For best results, if the fruit looks ripe, leave it for three or four days longer to maximise the flavour.



mid-October (North Island only)

Calibrachoa 'Flower Power'

The name says it all. If you want a beautiful array of cascading colour in your pots, hanging baskets or planters, then these little gems will do the trick. They look like a miniature petunia, growing to about 25cm in height, and will flower non-stop from spring to frost. Calibrachoa can tolerate light frosts and thrive in full-sun or part-shade, but they do not like wet feet so a careful watering regime is required. Remember: a trim will keep them tidy, ensuring you get repeat flowers all season long.



You have been talking and we have

Many of our customers tell us that four to six vegetable plants are just too many of any one variety so we are trialling a range of vegetables that you can purchase individually in their own organic peat pot. The great thing about peat pots is you plant the pot with the plant into the ground. The peat pot naturally breaks down as the plant grows, meaning no root disturbance and no interruption to the growing season. You will now be able to 'pick and mix' your vegetable patch this season. The following vegetables are available in peat pots: tomatoes, lettuce, cauliflower, cabbage, broccoli, silver beet, celery and spinach. Selection may vary from store to store.

For North Island gardeners this year we are growing a selection of taller growing plants which are ideal for cut flowers. These are top commercial varieties of asters, dianthus, marigold, rudbeckia, stock and lisianthus for you to grow in your gardens or containers, thus giving you an easy visual boost for your home and garden.







At my house I have a very large section, which includes 11 huge raised beds where I grow a wide range of vegetables according to the season. But as with any home garden, especially one of this size, as the months get warmer the population of nasty insects increases. The good news is that along with these pests come some troops to help fight the battle. Personally, I am not keen on spraying unless it is essential but some of the insects are essential too, and if I sprayed I would kill the good guys with the bad.

The first good guy is the lacewing, no more than 8mm in length; the adult lacewing looks like a tiny praying mantis. Although extremely delicate they hunt aphids and white fly, and love the honey dew produced by these pests. Lacewing larvae are the ideal predator because they have a straw like injector with which they skewer aphids, mealy bugs, cabbage worms, caterpillars and whitefly, before sucking out their insides (gruesome but effective). The larval stage of the lacewing lasts about a month and individual larvae can consume over 600 aphids in that time.

Then there is my favourite good guy, the parasitic wasp. This wee wasp goes mostly undetected in the garden because it is only about 4mm in length. The adult female lays its eggs inside aphids and paralyses them, and as the tiny wasp grows inside the aphid it feeds on it. During this process the

aphids swell and become a golden colour. When the wasp is ready to emerge it will eat a circular hole in the back of the aphid creating an escape hatch, leaving the mummified aphid behind. This tiny wasp only lives for 14 days but each adult female will lay around 100 eggs in that time. The best part about these wee wasps is that two out of three eggs will turn into females and they will quickly clean up the aphid problem in the garden.

Lastly, the best known good guy is that well-loved predator the ladybird or ladybeetle. A single ladybird will eat as many as 5,000 aphids in its lifetime, so whenever I find one of these I always take it straight to my vegetable garden and put it on the most aphid infested plant I have. Ladybirds have two defence systems. Their bright markings on their backs discourage animals and birds who may try to eat them and they are also protected by an odorous, noxious fluid that seeps out of their body when disturbed. Usually ladybirds will lay clusters of yellow eggs in colonies of aphids and other pests, making it easy for young larvae to find prey after hatching. They will feed on aphids constantly for around two weeks before becoming an adult.

So, if you see any of these good guys or the signs that they are present, my advice is not to spray just yet. Nature has a way of cleaning up its own mess and by giving these good guys a chance to do their job you avoid costly sprays and will see

that having an insect free garden is attainable.

With these three predatory insects on my side, the fight to keep my vegetable garden edible has been easier. When the pest problem gets too bad I make sure I cannot see any of my helpers on the infested plants then I usually use a spraying oil or pyrethrum spray. 'Beat a Bug' is fantastic due to the fact that I can spray it on then eat the produce the next day. Just be sure when using spraying oils that you do it when the sun is not on the plant as the oil magnifies the sunlight, burning the foliage.

Planting plants like pyrethrum around your garden will help deter pests from hanging around, especially on either side of the doorway of your glass house. I plant basil almost everywhere, not only does it deter pests but I have a great recipe for basil pesto that is quick and easy to make and it goes well in salads. To help draw in good insects like the parasitic wasp and lacewing, plant Phacelia (available in Oderings seed range in-store or online). The pollen from the flowers provides the good guys with the nectar they need to survive, and the pretty blue flowers attract bees to your garden, helping with pollination.

I also use Neem Granules, especially with tomatoes, potatoes and capsicums. There is a nasty insect about at this time of year called the tomato/potato psyllid that carries a virus that will stop your plants from producing a crop. Neem Granules are simple to use: just put a teaspoon of Neem Granules under each plant when planting and then every six weeks reapply on the surface of the soil around the plant.

I hope that your battle against the 'bad guys' is going as well as mine.

Article by Olivia Hesp









Itware



Shopping for gifts is easy at Oderings.

The Aromatherapy Company



The Naturals range has had a revamp. Come and familiarise yourself with your favourites and look at the extensive range on offer.

Tea Cup Bird Feeders



Feed the birds at your place with these vintage printed teacup and saucer bird feeders, to which you can add nectar or seed and attract birds to your garden. There is an enormous range of the cup and saucer feeders available as well as the feed to use in them



Omni Wind Sculptures

Back by popular demand after selling out at Christmas and at the Ellerslie International Flower Show. (NB: the range may vary

store to store).

Oxted



The dishcloths with a difference that are made from all natural materials, they are robust and 100% biodegradable. Simply place in compost bin when they have done their dash. Made in England, these affordable dishcloths are only \$9.99 each and are individually wrapped.



Clearance Sale

Do not delay on grabbing yourself some clearance goods at your local Oderings Garden Centre, most have been reduced by 50% with plenty below cost.



Come and see our fabulous and realistic artificial flowers, all of which are at reasonable prices.



Yankee Candle

When you burn and smell this range of candles, you will realise why this is the world's number one selling candle. There are many fantastic fragrances to choose from, all at 30% off.







Hats

Fantastic range for the whole family, priced from \$17.99. NR: these are not available at Oderings Yaldhurst.









A gorgeous range of quality stationery pieces with a point of difference and a little luxury. Prices start from only \$9.50. These are available at selected stores or online.

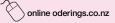






what's **New**











Dahlia 'Mystic Sparkler'

If you want a stylish and contemporary plant that is just right for today's gardens, then these vivid blooms are sure to impress. They will enliven even the dullest of gardens with their textural foliage and stunning flowers.





November



Osteospermum 'Voltage White Lightning'

An early bloomer with a long flowering season, this osteospermum will add a touch of sophistication to your garden with clean white flowers and a yellow eye.





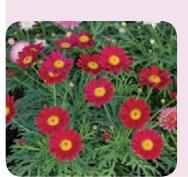
mid-September

Federation daisies

New to this series is the 'Superfed' breed with improved garden performance and huge flowers. Although they start flowering in spring and carry on into the autumn, they are notably different for their massive flowers.

'Superfed Butterball' is a compact grower with striking flowers with creamy-yellow petals and a gold centre, it grows to 75cm by 60cm. **'Superfed Double Act'** is unusual with its large bi-coloured flowers of bright rose-tipped petals that fade to yellow towards the centre. It grows to 60cm by 60cm.

'Superfed Starlight Red' is a compact grower with super-sized crimson red flowers with a yellow centre, growing 60cm by 50cm.







blooms.

Crazytunia 'Mandevilla'

If you are an avid gardener looking for a beautiful petunia for a container or planter box, then you should consider Crazytunia 'Mandevilla'. It has blooms of fiery magenta with soft yellow shading radiating outwards from the centres of the unique star-shaped



October



Petunia 'Mini Blast'

offers blasts of hot pink and white tri-coloured flowers on smaller blooms.
This petunia is the baby cousin of the ever popular 'Raspberry Blast'.









dianthus in recent years.

They are one of the best plants for old fashioned cottage charm, offering abundant flowers.

Dianthus 'Romance' has gorgeous salmon coloured flowers with a strong fragrance, which last well in floral arrangements, as well as giving you months of flowering over spring.

Dianthus 'Bright Eyes' has wonderfully fragrant blooms, which are large and white with a beautiful port-wine coloured eye.

It blooms over an extended

period in spring.



New Petunias

'Astra'

This is a cascading variety and is magnificent in baskets and planters. 'Astra' requires a position in full-sun to retain its pattern.



'Dark Heart'

The most exciting release for 2014 and what we believe is a world first, an Oderings' own exclusive black petunia named 'Dark Heart'. It has very large, near-black flowers, which at times have undertones of a deep purple hue.



Heuchera

The ever-popular heucheras have three new additions.

'Delta Dawn' sports large round leaves with red centres in the spring and autumn. In summer its red veins are highlighted by the gorgeous

Heuc Ta

has a strong, vigorous habit.

golden-lime leaf colour. 'Delta dawn'

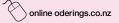
Heuchera 'Black
Taffeta' has silky
black foliage that
is large, glossy
and ruffled,
and the plant
is vigorous
and reliable.

Heuchera
'Paprika' is
a 'must' with
large, glowing,
cherry-coral
leaves that
look very
tropical, but
this is actually
a very hardy plant.



what's **NeW**







Yates Success Ultra

Derived from beneficial soil bacteria, 'Success Ultra' controls a range of garden insect pests, including a number of chewing caterpillars, leaf rollers and sap suckers. Most excitingly, 'Success Ultra' takes care of some notoriously difficult garden pests such as tomato/potato psyllids, thrips on stone fruit and codling moth. 'Success Ultra' has translaminar action, which means it moves through the leaf and becomes rainfast. Pests stop feeding immediately but may take up to three days to die.





Tui Weed Eliminator for Lawns

Ideal to combat common weeds invading your lawn. It is a selective weed killer – penetrating right down to the roots

to kill common weeds,

without harming your lawn. Effective on a variety of weeds including daisies, clovers, chamomile, buttercups, thistles and dandelions.







Tui Disease Eliminator for Fruit & Veges RTU

Use to combat common diseases ruining your fruit and vegetables. It continues to protect your fruit and vegetables for up to 10 days after application. Effective on powdery mildew, botrytis, brown rot, late blight and downy mildew. The ready-to-use bottle means no mixing is required.



Tui Caterpillar Eliminator for Fruit & Veges

Use as a fast acting, natural insect eliminator that combats caterpillars ruining your fruit and vegetables. Although primarily used to eliminate caterpillars, it is also effective at controlling other

insects such as aphids, thrips, earwigs, mealy bug and passion vine hopper.



Tui Insect Eliminator for Fruit & Veges

Use to combat common insects and caterpillars ruining your fruit and vegetables. It continues to protect your fruit and vegetables

for up to 14 days after application. It is effective on leaf roller, thrips, aphids, tomato fruit worm, diamondback moth caterpillar and white cabbage butterfly.











Bean 'Blue Lake'

Oderings has added this bean to our range because it has a stringless pod that stays sweet, tender and crisp, even at full maturity.





Seismic Wax

is an adhesive product designed to protect fragile items and prevent damage to them by holding them in place. It is removable and re-usable; it works on most surfaces and is strong, waterproof, non-toxic and non-acidic.



Tui Targeted Grass Eliminator RTU

Ideal to combat unwanted grasses in your garden beds, without harming desirable plants. It is effective on kikuyu, couch, paspalum, and annual poa grasses.

The ready to use bottle means no mixing is required.



Tui NovaTec Minis



This is an innovative nitrogen stabilising technology. Each 75g pack contains the perfect amount to feed two 40L pots or one square metre of garden. Minis are available in four varieties to provide the optimum balance of nutrients for specific plant groups: Tui 'NovaTec Vegetable', 'Flower & Rose', 'Citrus & Fruit Tree', and 'Premium' will help you achieve even better results in your garden!



Tui Pea Straw Mulch 90L

'Tui Pea Straw Mulch' is the perfect finishing touch to create a tidy, well cared for look in your garden, while providing all the benefits that come from mulching. Use throughout your garden, in pots,

and containers to keep your piece of paradise in tip-top condition. This new 90L bale will cover approximately 2-3 square metres.

PEA STRAV



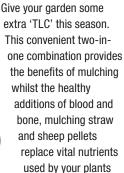
Tui biogro certified organic

Maximise the natural goodness in your garden with this new range. 'Tui Organic Compost' - comprises natural resources including fine bark and chicken manure that will help your garden flourish. 'Tui Organic Potting Mix' provides your potted plants with a 100% organic growing medium. Tui Organic Seed Raising Mix provides your seeds with a 100% organic start to life.





Tui Mulch & Feed





Annabel Langbein Delicious Gardens® Seed Range This year Tui, in conjunction with Annabel Langbein,

are releasing a new range of gardening products. The seed range is a group of grow-your-own ingredients to create delicious dishes from garden to plate. There are five unique varieties available: Asian Treats, Italian Banquet, Bee Friendly, Mexican Feast and Microgreen Goodness, each containing four different seeds for you to grow at home.



We love the idea of the

Annabel Langbein Delicious Gardens® Mini Greenhouse

because it creates ideal conditions for germinating seeds and growing healthy seedlings. Each mini greenhouse comes complete with coir pellets, a watering rose, and step by step instructions, so you grow your own seeds successfully!

Why not try the new

Annabel Langbein Delicious Gardens® **Potato Sack**

These will keep your home-grown potatoes fresher for longer. Each sack is unique and handmade in New Zealand from recycled hessian sacking.





Bee Friendly Gardens

Oderings is laying down a challenge to our customers: develop an urban honey bee garden. We invite you and your family down to your local garden centre for help in creating a 'Bee Palace' for these buzzy pollinators.

Like all living organisms, bees have their place in our ecosystems, and they have a vital role to play. Without the humble bee's assistance in helping us to grow the beautiful berries, fruit and healthy vegetables we love, we could lose a large chunk of agricultural crops that we take for granted.

In New Zealand we often hear about the decline in honey bee numbers. Sadly, bees are now under attack because of such threats as the varroa mite, which, if an infestation occurs, can wipe out whole hives. They are also affected by toxic garden sprays and the lack of natural habitat. Honey bees need pollen and nectar to survive, which is why we challenge you to make your garden a honey bee palace.

Time to get planning! Here is a gallery of flowers loved by bees.

Article by Jenna in Hamilton







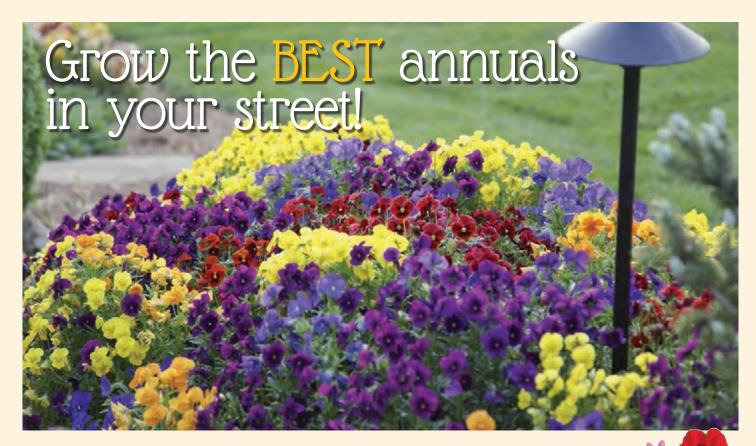
Tips

Bees love water so find a little area where you can place a bird bath or small pond. They use the water to cool down the hive.

- Make sure you mass-plant the same flowers. Bees will work on one spot for at least ten hours and like to collect from the same type of flower.
- Be bee aware: who would have thought some organic garden insecticides are very toxic to bees. Ask us in-store about our new 'Tui Shots' range, which is bee friendly.

So jump on board the bee friendly garden wagon and help contribute to continuing the survival of bees.





An annual is a plant that completes its growing cycle in a single season. That is, it grows from seed, flowers and produces its own seeds through spring/summer or autumn/winter. When you think about it, that is a whole lot of living over a short time!

What I love about annuals is their versatility and endless options for colour, shape, form, size and textures. There is an annual to suit any situation and fill every gap in the garden. No other plants have the same long flowering ability to provide such brilliant displays. Did I mention colour? Colour is a great way of creating a theme, continuity or just adding a splash for something special through the garden and pots. Annuals provide so many colours. They are brilliant for highlighting areas of interest like entranceways and other focal points.

Did you know that some of the annuals we sell in our bedding range are actually perennials? The reason we treat them as annuals is they often will not tolerate winter cold. Plants like salvia, verbena and even impatiens in their homeland will continue through for another summer season.

You can either grow annuals from seed or buy them in seedling packs. Growing them from seed means more work and takes longer but it is economical. You get far more plants for your dollar from seeds than when you buy a punnet of seedlings. Some people get great satisfaction being able to grow and produce something from a seed. To get the most from your annuals plant your seed about 8-10 weeks before you want to put your plants in the garden. Check the time from sown seed to planting on the back of your seed packet as this can vary depending on the variety you choose. Sow seed into trays using a seed raising mix. It is important to use a good seed raising mix that has the right balance of

fertilisers, peat and fine bark that will allow the seeds' tender roots to grow into the mix. There is a volcanic material called vermiculite that is a great lightweight medium that you can put on top to cover the seed. Due to its light weight, it allows the seed's first stem to grow through it easily. With some varieties of flowers, you can sow directly in the ground later in the season.

The first couple of leaves of a seedling are often not 'true' leaves. They are actually the cotyledons that become the embryonic first leaves. Once more leaves grow (the 'true' leaves), and the seedlings look strong enough, you can transplant them into your prepared beds or containers.

Soil preparation is the key to success with annuals. Think of it as the foundation for the plants. Compost, blood and bone, sheep pellets and a good slow release fertiliser all give the sustenance these quick-growing gems need for optimum performance. I always try to prepare my beds a week or two before planting by digging in a couple of bags of compost and a bag of blood and bone. A month after planting I apply some Oderings 'Garden Replenish'; it is the best slow release fertiliser we stock. I always get flowers within six weeks of planting and an extended season.

If you like instant gratification you can buy annuals as seedlings in a punnet or for larger areas buy a boxlot that gives great value for money. We have such a fantastic range of annual seedlings that the hardest part is choosing what to plant. Make sure you choose varieties that suit the areas you are planting in, sun or shade, damp or dry, short or tall (it is important to grow short ones in a windy spot). If you are unsure what to choose any of our staff would love to discuss the options with you, both in terms of your planting area and your desired colour schemes.

When transplanting it is easier to divide all the plants and place them out where you want them before planting. This way you get a far more even display and you can get the spacing right.

Once planted, watering is important. Even if the soil is moist when you plant, you should still water the little plants once you have planted them. Watering can be difficult. Annuals often have a shallow root system they need regular watering, but be careful not to over water. The best way to check the need for watering is to scratch just under the surface of the soil; if it is dry 2-3cm down, you should water.

As I am sure you already know, annuals are not only great in the garden, but they are also fantastic in pots and containers. You can have bold, solid colour or a mixture of colours and textures with tall, medium and trailing varieties. The combinations are endless, so have fun designing your own personal displays. Perhaps the best thing about a display of annuals is that you can grow different ones next season, there is no need to be bored.

Article by Vanessa in Napier



Think winter, think fruit tree pruning, right? On the traditional Kiwi quarter-acre section, with a big old apple tree for the kids to climb and raid, this might have been a reasonable approach. However, these days with much smaller spaces for gardens, summer pruning of fruit trees is the best method to control size and vigour, and keep them to a manageable height for easy picking.

It is much easier to keep a small tree small than to reduce a large tree, so hobby orchardists need to take responsibility for tree size and decide on the ideal height (usually as tall as you can reach) and not let them grow any bigger. Simply willing your fruit trees not to get too big just won't work – tree telepathy does not exist! Do not be intimidated by pruning. There are lots of methods and techniques, and most are valid. The most important thing is to do it.

Summer pruning techniques can be applied to all deciduous fruit trees, including espaliered types. Summer pruning is a good way to remove the upright water shoots which can spoil the appearance of your formal espalier shape.

Why does summer pruning work?

Summer pruning reduces tree size and vigour because when you remove tree branches and therefore the leaves you shut down the energy production,

as there are fewer leaves to make energy through photosynthesis. This decreases new growth and the energy available to be stored in the roots, which in turn reduces the available energy for growth in the following season.

There are other benefits of summer pruning. Keeping your fruit trees small means you can fit more of them in your garden. Choose varieties that spread your harvest season over as long a period as possible. It is easy to choose varieties with fruit that ripen from early December until early winter. Small trees are also easier to cover with netting if needed and easier to spray to prevent pests and diseases. Pruning in summer also eliminates the risk of bacterial and fungal infections entering the tree, as can happen with pruning in cold and wet winter conditions. Using Bacseal or Seal & Heal to seal pruning cuts is still highly recommended no matter when you prune. Pruning in summer is also much more likely to get done, as it is so much more enjoyable to do in nice, warm weather, compared to rugging up to do battle with your trees in the depths of winter.

Three easy steps to summer pruning

Years one and two (i.e., the first and second summers after planting)

Step 1: After the spring flush of growth, cut back new growth by half.

Step 2: In late summer, cut half of the subsequent growth back by half.



Year three onwards

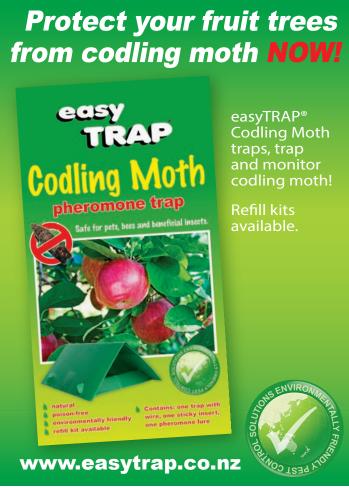
Choose the maximum height you want the tree to grow to and do not let it grow any bigger. When there are vigorous shoots above the chosen height, cut them back or remove them altogether.

Other Pruning Tips

- The 'three D's' remove dead, diseased and damaged branches.
- Prune to an open vase shape for stone fruit and a central leader form for pip fruit trees.
- Don't be afraid. There is no one right way to prune a tree.
 No two people would prune a tree in exactly the same way.
 You learn to prune by pruning!
- Use good quality secateurs and saws, and seal all pruning cuts with Bacseal/Seal & Heal.

Article supplied by Kate Marshall, Waimea Nurseries





Pallet Garden

With sections getting smaller and the demand for space increasing why not tap into your creative side and create a pallet garden. These are so simple to make even I can do it.



Here's what Oderings team members Susan and Greg have made for their own place in Taradale. Well done guys; great job! If you want to give this a go and you have any questions do not hesitate to email me - vanessa@oderings.co.nz

Many places (including Oderings) burn or throw away old pallets, so this is a great sustainable way of creating an impressive, functional focal point.

There are lots of uses for vertical gardens. I love the idea of a vegetable and herb one; what a neat way of being able to grow your entire salad bowl. Why not try a wall of colour? Impatiens or petunias would look stunning en masse. I have seen a very effective fern wall, and a succulent one works well for those not wanting to water as much. Once you have built your pallet wall there is no end to what you can achieve.

There are many different ways to construct these pallet walls, but here is how we did it. We found them easier to make with the two of us, especially towards the end, as they get very heavy once they have soil in them.

You will need

- Two Pallets (one for spare wood)
- Hammer/drill
- Staple gun
- Weedmat
- Nails/screws
- Hand saw
- Shrub & Tub
- Craft knife
- Battery drill.

Step one

Choose two nice rustic-looking pallets. Try to pick ones that have gaps in the boards which are neither too big nor too small. If the gaps are too big you'll need to put a piece of wood under each board to create an



internal box to hold in the potting mix, and if the gaps are too small you won't be able to plant into them. If the gaps are just right (as shown), then the potting mix will remain in the pallet without any extra work.

Step two

Cut the pallet in half. This is mainly because a whole pallet would be so heavy once it is finished that only Superman could lift it into place. If you really want to have a whole pallet, you will need to fix it to your

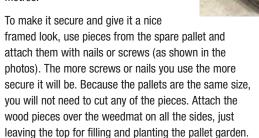


wall before adding the potting mix. In either case, make sure your fence or wall can take the weight.

We cut our pallets with a simple hand saw but it would be much easier with a powered saw. Cut the pallet according to the direction you want your plants to run. If you cut up and down you'll get two nice long panels (as we did) but if you're after a different look try cutting it sideways, which will give you long strips to plant up. You could even cut it into thirds for three panels if you wanted to.

Step three

Using a staple gun, attach weed mat all around the edges of the pallet. This is to hold all the potting mix when it is full. Staple the weed mat every few centimetres.



As shown in the photos, attach at least two more pieces to the back of the pallet garden over the weed mat. This is to keep the shape once the potting mix goes in and to give you an anchor or something to attach the pallet garden to the wall or fence.

Take your pallet garden to wherever its final 'home' is to be. Trim off any excess weed mat, tidy up any other bits and pieces and start filling with potting mix. We used 3½ bags of Oderings Shrub & Tub. It is important to fill the pallet garden the way it will be standing/ placed. This way you can compact the mix down as you go, locking it in place. If you lay the pallet garden on the ground and fill it up, the potting mix will fall out the front and you will end up having to do it standing up anyway. Fill the pallet garden to the top of the first piece of wood, compact it down with your hands and

then fill to the next piece of wood. Each time soil falls on the ground, use a brush and shovel to put back in the pallet garden. Once you have filled it to the top, it will be heavy, so it is a good idea to fill it near where you want it to go.

Step five

This is the fun part. Get creative and plant anything and everything. I recommend planting from the base to the top. Due to the compaction the plants are harder to get in at the bottom but as you work up it'll get easier. Water them in well; this will clean off any excess potting mix left on the plants. As the plants are growing, water from the top and in the front so all the plants get a drink.

Good luck and have fun





Tui's new Plant Protection range protects your plants the smart way, with both natural and traditional options. A Single Shot™ provides the perfect amount for one application, so you can achieve even better results in your garden.



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