

ODERINGS

The First Name In Good Gardens

Live & Grow

ISSUE 21 SUMMER 2009/2010

COMPLIMENTARY COPY



CHRISTMAS GIFTWARE | HANGING BASKETS | GRANDMOTHER'S GARDEN

Sunflower Little Star



Marigold Marvel Mixed

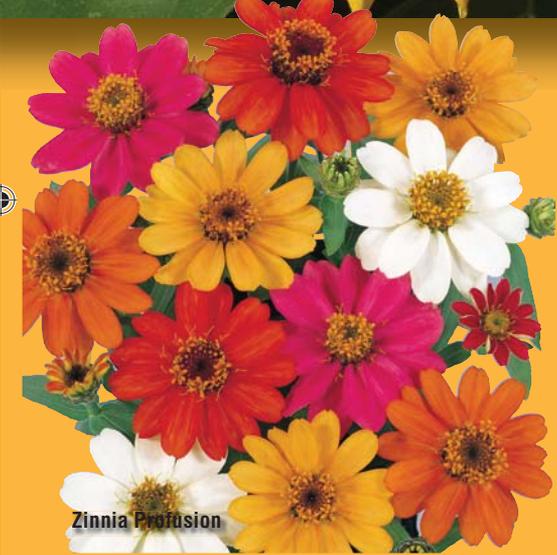


Dichondra Silverfalls



Oderings Summer DROUGHT resistant Collection

Zinnia Profusion



Rudbeckia Toto



Portulaca Sunseeker



Cosmos Seashells



Livingstone Daisy



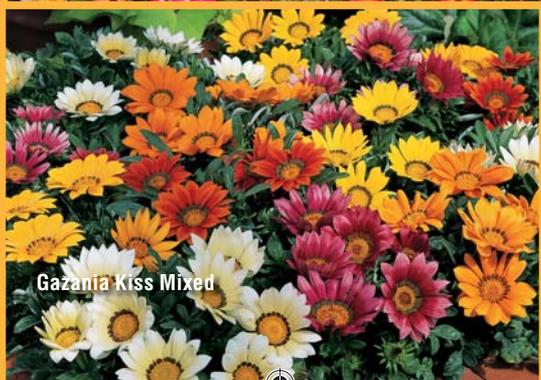
Gaillardia Arizona Sun



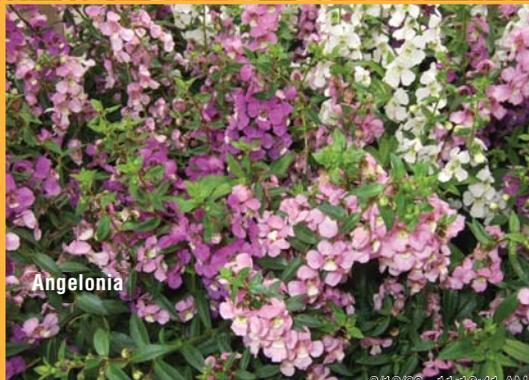
Osteospermum Passion



Gazania Kiss Mixed



Angelonia



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Welcome to Oderings Live & Grow Issue 21

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Cover Shot: Tigridia



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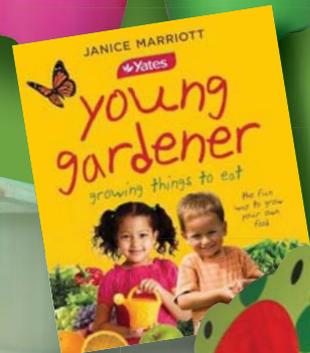


The Swan Plant page 7



a Garden for CHRISTMAS

Hasn't this year just flown by? Who can believe that Christmas is here again? We at Oderings realise that the future of gardening relies on our wee people. We all need to actively encourage our younger generation to learn how to grow and look after vegetables and plants so they can be confident as adults and have successful gardens in the future. Children love sowing seed and being able to pick and eat things they have mastered themselves. Who knows, they might even begin to like eating vegetables.



We have recently started stocking a variety of NZ-based, garden related children's products such as junior gardening kits, worm farms, veggie patch kits, magnifying jars, insect viewing boxes and large butterfly nets which are all beautifully packaged and made with children in mind. We are also stocking Italian-made plastic wheelbarrows, watering cans, and bulldozer shovels with beautiful and bright colours, all of which would make ideal Christmas presents and stocking fillers.

We are now stocking children's and adult's hats, which are a must have in the garden as we all know how damaging the sun can be. So with the right tools, sunscreen and a decent hat we are ready... so lets get planting.

Yates has recently released a great informative colourful book called *Young Gardener*. This is written by the award winning children's writer and keen gardener Janice Marriot. Inside you will find loads of information and diagrams to help the up and coming young gardener with lots of fun things to do such as growing your own pumpkin, making green haired monsters, crosswords, puzzles and loads more. The book would make an excellent Christmas gift for any young person wanting knowledge on gardening in fun and exciting ways.

Each of our stores has one of these Children's Gift Packs to give away.

Simply buy anything from our kids range and fill in the coupon at the till and go into the draw to win one of these great gift packs; ten to give away with a value of \$91 each. (Packs includes: A pot, magnifying glass, slug bait, children's gloves, note pad, seeds and Yates Young Gardener book).





Catmint and Catnip



These hardy little gems give a natural and colourful look to garden spaces, pots and landscapes. Grown mainly for their flower, they come mostly in shades of blues, purples and mauve but is also available in pink and white. They have pleasant aromatic foliage that is distinctly minty. The aroma surprisingly enough is said to have a sedative effect on humans.

Vanessa Walmsley-Forbes
Havelock North



Catnip and catmint are from the same genus but they are different species. Catmint tends to have better colour in the flowers while Catnip tends to have bigger, bolder foliage.

There is an obvious reason how the *Nepeta* genus gets its name "catnip" or "catmint", cats love them. It's like an alcoholic cocktail to them that sends them into a temporary state of euphoria. Some cats just like to smell it, roll in it, and sleep on it while others lick it, chew it or eat it. It's all due to a chemical that the plant produces called nepetalactone. There is a catch though, not all cats possess the "catnip gene". Some cats are immune to the smell and to them it's just another plant in the garden. There is only one way to see how your feline friend will respond and that's to give it a try.

Catnip/mint is the perfect accessory to the herb garden, looks fantastic as a border to a perennial garden, great in cottage themes, and will always have a place on a bank planted en masse. Don't underestimate how good these plants can look, giving a bold statement of colour when planted in groups or used as a groundcover. They are also very handy as what I call a "fill in plant" for those areas where you want a bit of colour until the rest of the plants grow up. The oils from catnip are also supposed to be a good insect repellent and said to be especially good for those pesky mosquitoes, so have a plant growing near your BBQ area this summer.

Catnips/mints are easy to grow and easy to look after so long as you provide them with a couple of essentials. They need a nice sunny, well drained area. If they get too wet they tend to defoliate and look scruffy. At the time of planting it is good practice to turn the soil over so it is light and well broken up, add some Odeerings Compost and mix it in. This will help the fine roots to establish more quickly and put on a better show of flowers sooner. Trim after the plant has finished its first main flowering. The timing of this is hard to determine because they flower for such a long time, and they flower sporadically throughout spring and summer but in this case you have to be cruel to be kind and sacrifice the odd flower. Your sacrifice will be rewarded by a second flowering that will take you through the autumn and you will get a much tidier looking plant.

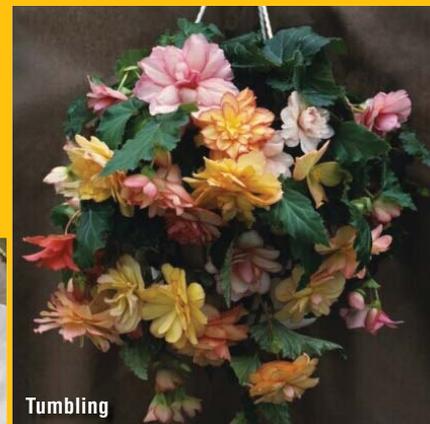
So love it or hate it, Catnip/mint has its place in the garden and if not for yourself then why not treat your furry friend.



DIGGING IN WITH DANIEL



Daniel Hart
Havelock North



Tumbling



Nonstop Mocca Mixed

Tuberous begonias are among the most splendid of all bedding plants. They come in an array of bright colours, single and double flowers, upright or cascading and once in flower will give you the most stunning display of colour imaginable.

Tuberous begonias will grow best in a warm semi-shaded spot with plenty of air movement with protection from strong winds. It is very important to have good drainage; they will not grow very well if they are grown in clay soils and have wet feet, so don't overwater.

ORDERINGS VARIETIES

Nonstop

Large double camellia type flowers from spring till autumn with a beautiful bright colour range. Plants are compact, basal branching and don't need staking.

Nonstop Mocca

The same as nonstop but with deep bronze foliage.

Tumbling Mixed

A gorgeous pendant begonia for hanging baskets and window boxes. Flexible elegant stems with large cascading flowers.



Nonstop Mixed

Panorama Mixed

Large, beautifully coloured blooms cover a semi-cascading plant. Awesome in the garden, in baskets or pots.

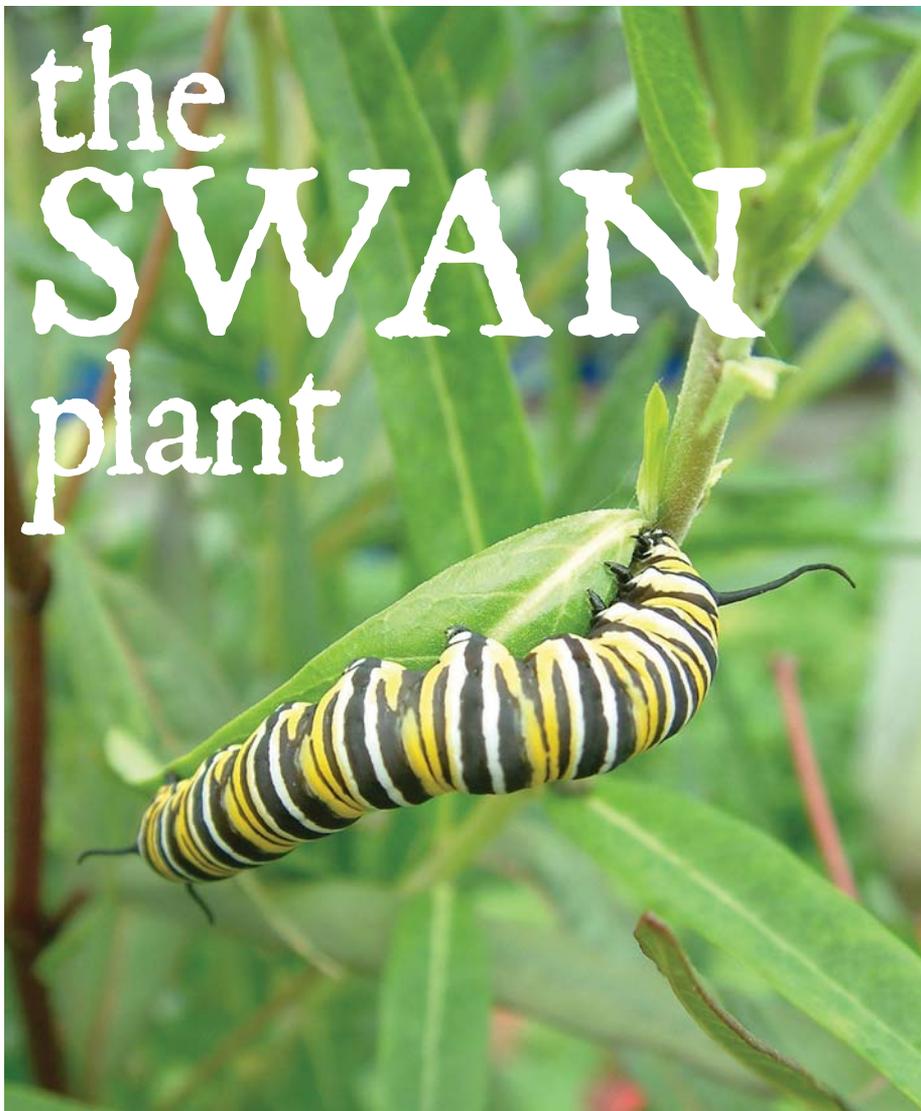
Lifting Corms

Around April/May (depending on the season) you should stop watering your tubers; this will encourage them into dormancy. Remove your plants and corms from the soil, and leave a ball of soil around them and let them dry out in the shed

or on the garage floor. When the stems break free from the tubers remove excess soil and allow the tuber to dry out in the sun for about 5-6 days then store in a cool dry place until spring.

Tuberous begonias are totally versatile and excellent in baskets and hangers, in pots and tubs, on the deck or planted as borders in your garden. Wherever they are they will give a huge display of flower power.

the SWAN plant



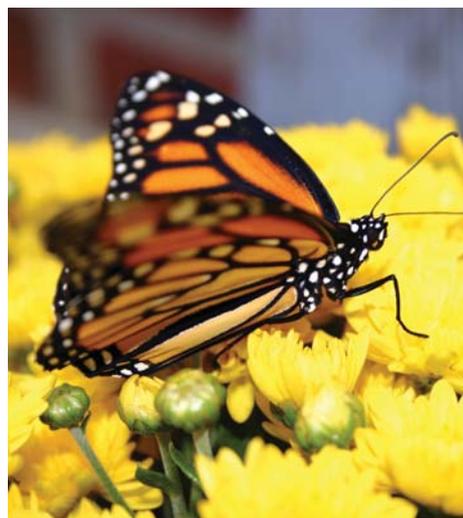
The swan plant is a member of the milkweed family and is botanically known as *Asclepias*. The swan plant is a frost tender perennial, but most people treat them as an annual and replace them each season.

Swan plants have a fascination for young and old. They are an attractive bush but it's their swan-like seedpods that create so much interest. Swan plants are vigorously eaten by the caterpillars of the monarch butterfly, so it is a good idea to have several plants otherwise they will become quickly decimated. Other than aphids the swan plant is poisonous to all insects. Did you know monarch caterpillars are also poisonous to predators such as birds?

If you have problems with aphids attacking the swan plant while there are caterpillars present, there are no safe chemicals or sprays that can be used without killing the caterpillars. The best way to get rid of the aphids is to use the finger and thumb technique and squash them (gross I know but it is the safest way of not killing the caterpillars). If you feel you need to use chemicals to control the aphids, you are going to need to remove all of the caterpillars from the plants and check there are no further eggs on the leaves. Spray with a product with a low withholding period and leave the caterpillars off the plant until this time has lapsed (if you don't do this you will kill the caterpillars). I recommend you use Mavrik, Tui Eco Pest or spraying oil.

Plant these trouble free plants in a well drained sunny spot. The seed from the unusual pods can be kept and sown next season.

It is a huge pleasure to watch the development of the monarch butterfly and will create interest to all observers especially children; it is almost a hobby in itself.



Monarch Butterfly Life Cycle

The Caterpillar

The female monarch will lay her eggs on the underside of the leaves of the swan plant. It takes four to ten days for the eggs to hatch into a baby caterpillar. The caterpillar can take up to three weeks to reach its full size and start forming its chrysalis. They can be left in this position taking 14 to 21 days to emerge into a monarch butterfly.

The Butterfly Emerges

This is perhaps the most exciting part of raising butterflies, but happens very quickly so can easily be missed. Once the butterfly emerges it will usually hang from its empty chrysalis to dry and harden its wings.

Ready To Fly

After about two hours of drying their wings the monarch butterfly will be ready to make its first flight. The warmer the weather the more chance the butterfly has of surviving and laying eggs to start the process all over again.

Alice Donnelly
Havelock North



Brenda Emms
Christchurch

to bee or not to bee

Are you one of those people who see a bee and run away screaming, or are you one of the many who reach for the fly spray or fly swat? I often hear customers say “Oh no I don’t like that plant because it attracts the bees”. This is rather sad as without bees in the garden we would not be able to cross pollinate fruiting and flowering crops, not to mention be able to make honey!!!



We often spray the garden to rid ourselves of bugs and pests, but in doing so we are destroying our natural insect cycle and unwittingly destroying some of the good critters in our gardens like the bees. Now don’t get me wrong, sometimes we have to spray to control problems in the garden, so how can we minimize the risk of damaging bees and other good insect life?

When buying sprays there are certain things you need to look out for.

Flowering Plants

If the plant is flowering you are going to attract bees, therefore don’t spray flowering plants with chemicals that have a long withholding period.

Withholding Periods

Most manufacturers will recommend a specific withholding period (this means the chemicals are still present in the plant until this time has lapsed). If the chemical is still present in the plant then it may still be toxic to bees. This can be solved by building a tee-pee covered with micro-climba cloth. Leave over the plant until the withholding period has finished.

Low Risk Sprays

These are generally are relatively safe and have a low or one day withholding period. This is the case with Mavrik, Eco Pest and other spraying oils.

Spray Times

Always spray early in the morning or late evening when the bees are in bed. Never spray on a windy day.



What about a more natural approach?

If your plants have good health they won't attract as much insect damage or fungal attack. Keep plants in high health by feeding regularly and using natural seaweed products or Neem Granules in the soil. People ask if they can use dishwashing liquid. With the fragrance and chemicals in these products I wouldn't recommend it.

Companion planting

is generally the best way to deter the nasty insects so you don't need to spray.

Tomatoes with brassicas will reduce white butterfly attack.

Onions and radishes with carrots will help deter wire worm in garden soils.

Sowing garlic along the side of lettuces and brussel sprouts will deter aphid attack.

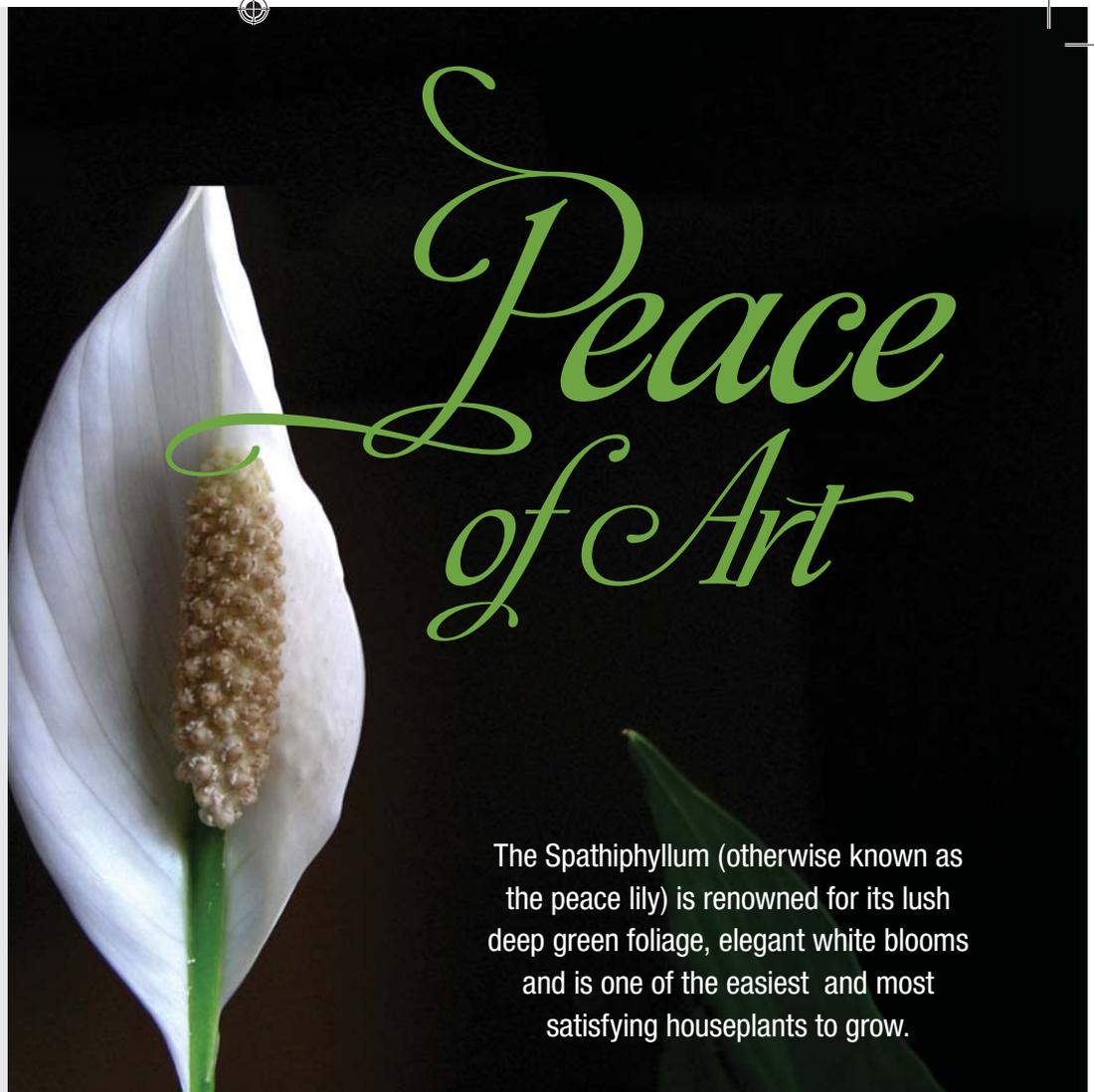
Bees are attracted to; *Nasturtium* - which deters aphids, *Rosemary* - which deters slugs and snails, *Pyrethrum* - which deters thrips, and *Sage* - which deters carrot rust fly.

Otherwise try this natural insect spray...

250grams chopped onions

150mls water

Combine ingredients and bring to boil. Allow to cool, strain then stand overnight. Mix this concentrate with five litres of water. Do not store as the spray won't keep. Clean out the sprayer as you would for normal spraying practice.



The Spathiphyllum (otherwise known as the peace lily) is renowned for its lush deep green foliage, elegant white blooms and is one of the easiest and most satisfying houseplants to grow.

Did you know that the peace lily is often used in offices or homes because of its air purifying qualities; it removes toxins from the air and replaces it with life giving oxygen.

The peace lily flowers naturally during spring and sporadically during the rest of the year. They prefer filtered light and thrive in warm, humid conditions, but will tolerate a minimum temperature of 10 degrees celsius. Water generously during summer months, but reduce

watering during winter. To keep your peace lily green and lush, feed with a liquid plant food fortnightly during warmer months.

With Christmas fast approaching this "peace of art" is a must have gift for someone special (or just a treat for yourself).

Aaron Holland
Christchurch



Peace Lily - Spathiphyllum





2



3



1



Giftware

Christmas shopping is e



15



12

Gifts for all ages at affordable prices.



16



14



13

ure s easy at Oderings



4



5



6



7



9



8



11



10

- 1 Hats priced from **\$17.99** babies'/ children's/women's and men's. Styles may vary from store to store.
- 2 Cup and Saucer planters lavender/rose/ herb/butterfly designs **\$44.99**.
- 3 Gardening tool sets **\$24.99** each. Individual tools **\$9.99** each.
- 4 Umbrellas priced from **\$34.99** many styles to choose from.
- 5 Eco-bags. Available in strawberry or Grapes **\$5.99** each.
- 6 Flower paperweights, many more styles available. Priced from **\$14.99** each.
- 7 Floating flower glass bowls **\$9.99** each.
- 8 Window stick-on. Designs include butterflies, dragonflies and peacocks **\$19.99** each.
- 9 Flower pens **\$5.99** each.
- 10 Wooden glass trays and glass coasters priced from **\$19.99** each.
- 11 Bird feeders priced from **\$7.99** huge range in store.
- 12 Kids' ponchos in 9 styles **\$24.99** each.
- 13 Aromatherapy Gardener range. Priced from **\$11.99**
- 14 Seedling range including make your own kaleidoscope kit. Many more D.I.Y inspirations also. Priced from **\$9.99**.
- 15 New range of fruit and veggie buddies and magnets in store Priced from **\$4.99**.
- 16 Crystal Ashley priced from **\$14.99** many designs to choose from.

Olivia Odering
Christchurch



The Nandina is otherwise known as the heavenly bamboo or, in Japan, it is also referred to as the friendship plant. It has just about everything that any home gardener or landscaper would want in a plant, with vibrant foliage that is graceful and lacy. Some varieties of Nandina also get a delightful berry in autumn which is often used by florists.

This versatile plant can be used in almost any part of the garden, however, it is best planted in full sun to part shade as this is how you will get the most vibrant colour. If planted in full shade they will lose the vibrant red autumn tones and will stay more of a lime-green.

Nandinas are lovely planted in pots or the garden as individual specimen plants. The attractive, lacy foliage, which resemble bamboo leaves, is often bronze to rose in colour, becoming a lime green with age. In the autumn and winter colours mix reds and orange with bronze and pink.

When planting make sure it is in well drained soil. Nandinas like peat or compost to be incorporated at the time of planting. If transplanting an existing plant this is best done in the autumn or winter. All Nandinas will benefit from a light feed once a year with Camellia, Azalea and Rhodo Fertiliser (acid). This should be applied in early spring or early summer, and needs to be watered in well to ensure the roots that are close to the surface don't burn. In most varieties of Nandina the plant remains quite compact, however, if you need to prune this can be done anytime throughout the year.

Oderings top 3 Nandinas are...

Firepower This dwarf species was developed in New Zealand. It has lime green leaves and superior red colour that shows in the autumn with compact growth, growing only 60cm x 60cm. Leaves flush a lime green in the spring followed in summer by a red tinge; by autumn the foliage is bright red, hence the name Firepower! A great plant for those who hate to prune. This variety produces no flowers or fruit.

Gulf Stream Has a distinctive appearance and finer looking foliage than other Nandina varieties. It is a truly beautiful, dwarf growing shrub with dense, lacy leaves of lime green maturing to a bronze rose. In winter they are a fiery red and orange. This easy care plant grows to 75cm high by 50cm wide, but can be trimmed lower.

Richmond This is the largest growing Nandina. It is great for the gardener who is looking to add height to the garden but not width (grows to 2m high x 1m wide). Large panicles of creamy white flowers turn into green berries which age to a stunning shiny red. These berries remain on the plant all winter long until the birds devour them in spring. When cut, the berries will last for at least two weeks in a vase.



Firepower



Gulf Stream



Richmond



Phlox Daniel

A true performer that is smothered in bright inviting flowers from spring until autumn.



Perennials are ideal fillers for hanging baskets because they are bold, beautiful and long lasting. Get a true cottage look when planting with perennials, or incorporate with bedding plants to add contrast. Oderings perennial basket fillers will provide an explosion of colour.



Convolvulus Blue Lake

Waves of blue flowers atop silvery foliage on a compact neat plant. A great statement.



Silene White

If you are looking for a subtle colour lift in your baskets, then the Silene is delightful. Also available in pink.



Campanula Resholdt's

A splash of vibrant blue smothers the dainty foliage throughout spring till autumn.



Bacopa Blizzard

One of Oderings most popular basket fillers. A white out of colour throughout the year.



Fuchsia Procumbens

Looking for something a little unusual? This NZ native looks great incorporated with other red or yellow fillers.



Gypsophila

We all know and love the traditional flowers, but when the pink or white ground hugging varieties are used they create a blanket of colour.



Lampranthus Lavender Trails

This succulent is the solution for the neglected hanging baskets that you may forget to water from time to time. Other colours available.



Lysimachia Gold Clusters

This is a vibrant, eye catching and unfortunately often forgotten basket beauty. Plant with blue and whites for a beautiful vibrant display.



Callie Petunias – The Callie series of petunia are unique because they are compact plants with small leaves with an abundance of small brightly coloured flowers through spring, summer and autumn.



Verbena – Big heads of hundreds of little flowers are vibrant and a real show stopper. Verbenas have a place in all hanging baskets.



Mrs Kumiko

Grandmother's Garden

I remember Hydrangeas from my childhood holidays away in the sounds where we would see hundreds of colourful pompom heads of pink and blue amongst the landscape.

Most of us associate the hydrangea with our grandparents' gardens where they would bloom in their flower patches with hundreds of bees happily buzzing through the garden. Today people are falling in love all over again with hydrangeas because of their beautiful appearance, easy maintenance and fantastic display of colour all summer long.

Hydrangeas are popular ornamental plants which need very little attention. Flower colours range from lime green to a creamy white, pinks, reds, blues and purples. The leaves that are dormant in winter burst away in spring with lush green vibrant foliage. Heights of hydrangeas range from 50cm -1.5m, there are also a few varieties of climbing hydrangeas available throughout the year which are popular because they cling to the wall (don't need support) but unfortunately these only come in white.

There are two main groups of hydrangeas. One is mophead (which is the most common) with large round flowers resembling pompoms; the second is lacecap which bears round, flat flower heads.

Commonly we have customers asking why their pink hydrangea is turning blue (or vice versa) the simple answer to this is a hydrangea will change the colour of their flower to match the pH of the soil. Pink hydrangeas like a high pH which means lime, whereas blue hydrangeas like a low pH meaning they like acid; therefore to keep the colour of your hydrangea the same use hydrated lime to keep pink hydrangeas pink, aluminium sulphate to keep blue hydrangeas blue. Apparently

white is always white and doesn't change.

When planting, be sure to use good soil with fertiliser (either general garden fertiliser or a potting mix) blended in with compost. Plant preferably in dappled shade as this helps with the vibrancy of the flowers and with water retention. You hardly need to do any maintenance once planted apart from applying a bit of water during dry weather and dead-heading flowers when they have finished.

Prune hydrangeas in autumn to early winter. It's tempting to prune all of the stems closely back to the ground, however, this is a bad idea. To ensure flowering every year, trim half of the stems back to 10cm and the other half to 20cm (e.g. cut one stem to 10cm and the one next to it to 20cm and carry on this process over the bush). This ensures you will get even flowering throughout the summer.

Climbing or bush hydrangeas when planted singularly or en-masse provide an easy-care garden display that looks simply stunning and vibrant all summer long. They also make a great cut flower that looks excellent combined in with Christmas table decorations.



Blue Diamond

urden

Try one of our top four picks for this summer season.

Blue Diamond - A beautiful and pure mid-blue hydrangea that grows to 80cm x 80cm. This compact dwarf variety is ideal for container gardening or amongst borders in a garden.

Raspberry Crush - Is also known as "bloody marvellous" or the "blood hydrangea". This traditional mophead hydrangea flower is very distinctive and highly decorative with shiny purplish coloured leaves and flowers that open a glowing deep red - maturing to wine purple. It is a fantastic cut flower with smaller to medium-sized flowers atop very long stems. The bush is upright and grows around 1.5m.

Bridal Bouquet - So named because, on its own, it looks just like a bridal bouquet. The extra large white mopheads appear all summer long. Be sure to plant this variety in dappled light where it will receive some moisture through the summer months. This enhances the white vibrancy and stops the flowers burning. Grows to 1.5m.

Mrs Kumiko - Huge rounded heads of creamy pink flowers are stunning and prolific. The vigorous but compact growth habit is perfect for container planting where you can move it to brighten decks or shady places in the garden. Grows to 70-80cm.



Bridal Bouquet





much loved MULCH

We use mulch generally for one of two reasons. The main reason is to help conserve moisture, the other is to suppress weeds. Aside from these, mulch is also important to help keep a consistent soil temperature, this is especially important with fruiting crops such as tomatoes. In the winter the mulch stores the heat and helps keep the soil temperature higher protecting the soil from hard frosts. In the summer it blocks sunlight and therefore helps keep the soil moist.

Organic mulches decay over time and are temporary. Commonly used organic mulches include...

LEAVES – They can tend to be dry and blow around so it is best to have them chopped or shredded before using. As they naturally decompose they will adhere to each other but still allowing water and moisture to seep down into the soil.

WOOD CHIPS OR BARK - The smaller the bark the quicker it decomposes, therefore if you want a long lasting mulch use a coarser grade of bark. Sometimes when it decays it can rob the soil of nitrogen; this should be balanced by adding Odeerings Garden Replenish.

PEAT MOSS or SPHAGNUM MOSS is long lasting and is popular for mulching. It can also lower the pH of the soil, making it useful as mulch on acid loving plants e.g. Rhodos, Camellias, Azaleas and Daphne etc. I use a product called Magic Mulch; this is a sphagnum moss that has been mixed and soaked with Ocean Organics. Ocean Organics is a natural fertiliser with huge quantities of minerals and nutrients that NZ soil often lacks, making this product ideal when incorporated with edible crops.

PEA STRAW or other straw mulches are lightweight and normally sold in compressed bales. They have an unkempt look but are brilliant used in vegetable gardens as a winter soil cover to help keep a warmer soil temperature. They are biodegradable and have a neutral pH. They have great soil moisture retention and weed controlling properties but are also more likely to be contaminated with weed seeds. Pea straw is seasonal and you will not be able to find it for most of the year. There is an alternative in a product called Tui Palletised Pea Straw, which has been ground up and sterilised (kills any weeds in the straw) and made into compressed pellets much like sheep pellets. Once you lay these pellets out and add water they swell to 3-5 times in size, making an organic mat that will give you all the benefits of mulch without the weeds.



STONES are also another great form of mulch; they store heat and generate a warmer soil temperature as well as suppress weeds and aid water retention.

If you are after products to keep the soil moist rather than having to mulch the surface then these are the products you should incorporate.

PEAT is a natural product that when dug into the soil help conserve moisture. Peat does have a pH of 4; this means it is acidic and should only be incorporated into gardens that have acid loving plants. However if you added compost when digging in the peat this would help neutralise the pH.

YATES WATER STORAGE CRYSTALS Helps plants survive dry weather conditions and infrequent watering. The crystals absorb water and end up hundreds of times their original weight. The plants then can draw on water as they need it. Whenever you water the crystals they replenish themselves and store water again. The crystals last several years, are biodegradable and are ideal used in pots, hanging baskets or areas that are often forgotten. I also recommend you dig them into your garden before you go on holiday to help with the infrequent watering.

SATURAID – is a granular soil wetter that makes the water soak directly to the root zone for the strongest, healthy growth in garden beds, pots or lawns. SaturAid works immediately so watering, rainfall and fertilising are more effective, even in hard to wet sandy, clay or compacted soils and potting mixes. SaturAid is an eco friendly, non-toxic, organic product that is suitable with all plant types and can reduce watering by 50%.



NASTURTIUM SO NICE

This is an easy care plant for a garden, pot, hanging basket or container. It also is often used as a companion plant in veggie gardens to deter aphids.

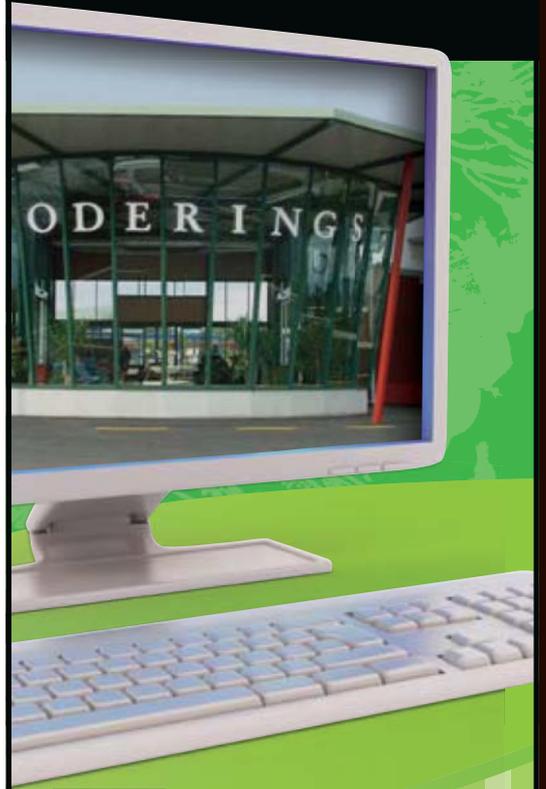
The awesome green leaves are quite unique and rounded like lily pads. The flowers are bright, vibrant and eye-catching, flowering all summer long.

The leaves have a peppery spicy taste and are great for salads and decorating soups and platters. You can also eat the flowers, and the seeds can be pickled or stuffed into olives for hot zingy flavor. YUMMY!



*What more
could you want
from a plant!*

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The Tomato DOCTOR

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

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

I grow buckets of tomatoes every year and I swear by Wally's Secret Tomato Food with Neem; used at 4-6 weekly intervals it keeps my tomatoes pest free (which is what the Neem is for) and also keeps the plants healthy. The other product that is essential is a spray called Copper (which is a natural fungicide) and you should use this every

3-4 weeks. There are plenty of other products that you can use as well but with any edible crop in my opinion Neem Granules are a must have to keep your plants pest free. Problems that occur with tomatoes are normally from an insect, a fungus, from fluctuating temperatures or watering. If you can't match up what's wrong with your fruit to the tomato doctor or if you are still unsure bring in some of your problem fruit/ leaves and we will be sure to help you.

WEATHER OR FERTILISER RELATED



ROLLING OF OLDER LEAVES.

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



TOMATO FRUIT SPLITTING

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



SUN SCALD

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



TOPS OF TOMATOES ARE GREEN

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



MAGNESIUM DEFICIENCY

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



BLOTCHY FRUIT

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



BLOSSOM END ROT

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

INSECTS



APHIDS

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



TOMATO FRUIT WORM

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



MITES

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



TOMATO PSYLLID

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



WHITEFLY

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

FUNGUS



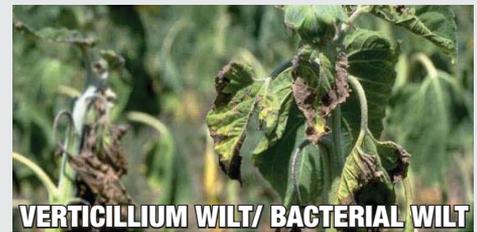
EARLY BLIGHT

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



BOTRYTIS/GREY MOULD

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



VERTICILLIUM WILT/ BACTERIAL WILT

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



LATE BLIGHT

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



LEAF MOULD

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



POWDERY MILDEW

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

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