



ODERINGS
GARDEN CENTRES

Live & Grow



ISSUE 34 AUTUMN/WINTER 2015

COMPLIMENTARY COPY



ANZAC 100 YEARS | WORM FARMS | THE COOLER SEASONS

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome back to another issue of the Oderings 'Live & Grow'. Autumn is a good time for planting and we at Oderings are just buzzing with excitement. I hope you will learn plenty from this issue and join us on a journey of inspiration.

Oderings philosophy with the 'Live & Grow' magazine has always been to offer some of our long-standing knowledge to our customers and provide inspiration for your garden. This issue is packed full of information for new and experienced gardeners alike; I have enjoyed the Anzac, Worm Farm and Winter Colours sections, but the whole magazine is interesting and I am confident you will love it as much as I do.

This will be the first issue in sometime without 'Digging in with Daniel' because he has moved to Australia (for now). We wish him all the best. Our resident expert, Julian Odering, will be taking over this section of the magazine in the spring issue.

For 2015, my goal at Oderings Garden Centres nationwide is to bring more inspiration into the stores, offer more displays that you can copy and develop at home, offer more space-saving growing ideas and start a range of brochures on growing, care and maintenance so you can feel confident with any new projects you wish to try. If you have often thought 'I would love to do this but just don't know how' let us help. You can email me about anything you would like to see featured in these growing tips and tricks; my address is pamela@oderings.co.nz.

The Odering family and staff like to think that we are working together to build a gardening community with you, and we hope that you will become an extension of this family business once again this year.

You will notice that many of the Oderings staff now write articles for this magazine. Thank you everyone, your fresh writing styles have helped to bring a new lease of life to this magazine.

Please enjoy this complimentary copy of the Oderings Live & Grow, we are proud to have been growing together with you since 1929.

Happy Gardening



Pamela Smith
Editor/Marketing Manager

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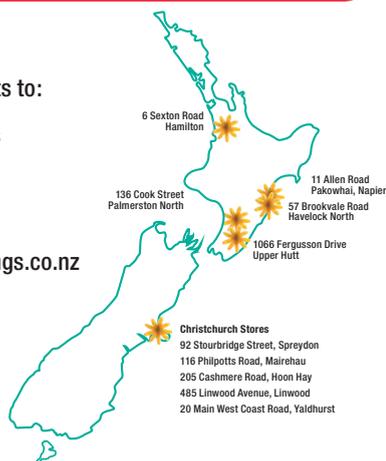
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Cover Shot: Flanders Poppy

Anzac Poppy

From 1921 onwards, the poppy became a symbol of remembrance honouring soldiers who died in wars. Poppy seeds only regrow and flower in turned over soil, so their seeds can lie on the ground for years. In World War I, the soil of the whole of the Western Front battlefield was churned up and poppies sprouted, grew and blossomed as never before, covering the graves of those who had been killed in northern France.

This was immortalised in Colonel John McCrae's 1915 poem 'In Flanders Fields' written during a lull in the Second Battle of Ypres.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

(Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_MacRae)

In 1918, American Young Women's' Christian Association (YWCA) worker Moina Michael inspired by this poem published her own called 'We Shall Keep the Faith'. In tribute to McCrae's poem, she vowed always to wear a red poppy as a symbol of remembrance for those who served in the war. At a November 1918 YWCA Overseas War Secretaries' conference, she appeared with a silk poppy pinned to her coat and distributed 25 more to those attending. She then campaigned to have the poppy adopted as a national symbol of remembrance. At a conference in 1920, the National American Legion adopted it as their official symbol of remembrance. At this conference, Frenchwoman Anna E. Guérin was inspired to introduce the artificial poppies commonly used today. In 1921 she sent her poppy sellers to London where Field Marshal Douglas Haig, a founder of the Royal British Legion, adopted the poppies as a symbol of remembrance. Veterans' groups in Canada, Australia and New Zealand also adopted them.

*Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.*

*We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.*

*And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.*

(Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/We_Shall_Keep_the_Faith)

So in remembrance of our fallen, Oderings are donating 2500 seed packets of 'Oderings True Flanders Poppies', which you can purchase for a gold coin donation (or more if you wish). Oderings will donate 100% of these donations to the Returned Services Association in support of veterans as well as ex-service people and their families in need.



Dianthus

I have started to compile a list of plants that I have always considered 'grannies' garden plants that I was never interested in growing. Now that my style of garden is changing to incorporate colour as well as foliage I am finding that 'grannies' choices were often sound because they are easy to grow and maintain and provide an abundance of colour.

I drive past gardens where the owners have chosen minimum care native foliage and wonder if they knew how easy care colourful perennials can be would they still choose natives? If I were to tell you that some perennial dianthus would flower sporadically through autumn, winter and spring with continuous flowers in summer, with minimal care, would you be interested? I know I am.

The criteria for choosing plants for my garden are quite limited because we have two young children (aged one and three years), so anything that goes in must be low maintenance, high impact, and capable of surviving being trodden on by dogs; the dianthus ticks all these boxes. Last spring I planted nine dianthus plants, adding to some previous plants and I have to say I am impressed.

Even on a small budget, you can get packs of dianthus in our bedding range. This season pick any (or all) of the following below.

If you want to develop a colour theme or you are after perennial plants that will look great year after year, then I recommend perennial dianthus, the only limit is your imagination.



Diamond Mixed



Strawberry Parfait



Raspberry Parfait

WORM FARMS

Worms are crucial for sustainable gardening. There is more to worms than eating the scraps from the kitchen (in worm farms) or keeping the soil in your garden nice and friable.

Worms in farms will produce free fertiliser, help reduce landfill, produce the best soil conditioner in the form of compost (which helps to improve water retention in the soil) and add nutrients and humus for the plants. So, bearing this in mind, let me ask you, are you interested in utilising the benefits of worms, which are nature's own recyclers?



Will any worms work in a worm farm?

No. Worms can be divided into two broad categories –composters and earthworms. Composters are mainly 'Tiger', 'Red' or 'Dendras' worms. They live and breed happily in an organic environment like a worm farm. Composter worms will not survive if you transfer them to the garden unless it is heavily mulched. Earthworms are the many other worms that prefer soil and humus rather than food waste, which they do not like.

Worm Farm Set Up

The benefits of the worm farms sold by Oderings is the system of levels. Level one is the collector tray that catches the liquid fertiliser draining from the upper levels; no food scraps or worms should be in this level. Level two is a working tray with the bedding material for the worms - a coir block soaked for 15 minutes in water. A piece of

cardboard lines the bottom of the tray, the coir bedding is laid evenly on top and the worms are spread over this. I would recommend 1000 worms to start with. However, we sell containers that have roughly 200 worms if you require smaller numbers of worms. Worms hate direct light, so to settle them into their new home the lid is left off until you can no longer see any worms. The final layer in this level comprises strips of newspaper that have been soaked in warm water. Alternatively, you can use a soaked natural basket liner. The worms settle after the lid is put on. One week after installing the worms it is time to feed them some partially decomposed food scraps.



Level three is used once the food is up to the top of level two. To do this the bedding needs to be touching the bottom of level three, otherwise the worms cannot climb up. From the second level take a couple of handfuls of soil and worms with some food and incorporate some more fresh kitchen waste.

Generally, it can take a few months for all the worms to reach level three. For level four – repeat steps in level three. By the time the farm is at level four, the worms from level two will be in the working trays of levels three and four so you can then tip the contents of level two into the garden or use them to make your own seed raising mix. Level two then becomes the next level four.

To read our tips and tricks please view this article in full at www.oderings.co.nz gardening guide.

Article by Janelle from Oderings Cashmere

WIN a worm cafe worth \$199.99

ENTER IN STORE OR ONLINE

To enter: name one kind of composting worm

Competition runs from 16 March until 30 April 2015. Only one entry per household. You must supply a valid email address or phone number to be eligible. Prize must be picked up.



Sweet Peas

The seeds of the original wild sweet pea were sent from Sicily to England in 1699. English gardeners were intrigued by the flower's charming fragrance and the sweet pea was on its way to becoming a garden favourite.

The original sweet pea had small, relatively insignificant, purple/maroon flowers but, once the plant breeders became involved, the colour range and flower size increased steadily. In late 19th century England, Henry Eckford bred a grandiflora strain of sweet peas that had big flowers, a wide colour range and a lovely scent. In the garden at Althorp, the country seat of Earl Spencer, one of Henry Eckford's sweet peas mutated into a variety with large, wavy petals and the flowers bred from this strain became known as the Spencer sweet peas.

In recent years, New Zealand has become one of the main contributors to sweet pea breeding, largely because of the work of one man, Dr Keith Hammett. Born and educated in England, Keith migrated to New Zealand in 1967, bringing with him his great love of sweet peas. In subsequent years, Keith worked to develop new sweet pea flowers that had the bi-coloured characteristic of the original sweet pea. He has also put a lot of effort into attempts to breed the elusive yellow-flowering sweet pea.

Yates seed range lists a number of Keith's sweet pea varieties under 'The Hammett Collection' a list that continues to grow. Yates has updated its Hammett sweet pea selection by adding three new varieties – Hammett's Surprise, Sapphire and Blue Butterflies, but one ongoing favourite in the Yates Hammett range

is the Original Sweet Pea. Keith has authenticated the genetic material in this variety so that gardeners can once again grow the small flowered, bi-coloured, highly fragrant bloom from Sicily.

While sweet peas are nowhere near as fashionable as they used to be (Yates 1901 catalogue listed close to 40 varieties), they are still remarkably popular. March and April are the most common months for sowing but, in colder areas, sweet pea seeds do best when sown in early spring. Late autumn sowing is best in warmer districts.

For best results, sow sweet pea seeds into well-drained garden soil in a sunny position or raise them in Jiffy pots containing seed raising mix and then transplant the Jiffy pot and the seedling by popping them together into the soil. Sweet peas dislike acid soils, so add some garden lime if necessary before sowing directly into the garden. Pinch back growth to encourage branching as the plants develop, and pick the flowers regularly to encourage more flowers. Watch for mildew on the leaves.

Most sweet peas are tall-growing climbers that need the support of a wall, fence or trellis, in a sunny position. Some smaller varieties will grow in pots. Bijou is a variety reaches about 60cm so is ideally suited to growing on a tripod or in containers.

Thanks to Yates for supplying this article



Houseplants

At this time of year when the days are getting shorter, it is always nice to have a few flowering plants inside. One of my favourites would have to be the phalaenopsis orchid.

The phalaenopsis, or moth orchid is a beautiful tropical orchid with large fleshy leaves and flowers which come in shades of white, pink, purple and yellow with many having stripes or mottles through their flowers, or different coloured throats. Phalaenopsis is a plant that always seems to scare people off. With their exotic look, most people think these orchids are difficult to grow, but they are very easy to grow. By following a few simple steps, they will reward you by adding elegance to your home for many months of the year.

There are three important factors to look at when growing phalaenopsis.

- Light – this is the most important, they need a position in a warm, bright spot out of drafts and direct sunlight. The ideal temperature is about 22-25 degrees during the day, with a minimum of 15-18 at night.
- Watering – always water your orchid from the top, letting the water drain right through, never allowing water to accumulate in the pot holder or saucer. Every seven to ten days is generally frequent enough but adjust this to the warmth of your room. A light misting is beneficial if you have a very dry house or a heat pump.
- Food – you should feed your orchid once a month to encourage flowering and keep your plant looking healthy. Oderings stock a range of different orchid foods so ask in store for the best option for you.

One problem experienced by many people is getting their orchid to flower again once the first flower spike has finished, here are a couple of tricks. The first thing you should try is to cut the flower spike back to just above the top node on the stem. After a few weeks, you should see a new shoot forming. If a shoot does not form or if the stem goes brown you will need to snip the whole flower stem off and try to initiate a new flower spike by placing your orchid in a room where temperatures are about 10 degrees cooler for a couple of weeks. This tricks the plant into thinking there has been a change in season and that kicks it into life again, encouraging it to flower. Once you have a new spike forming, Oderings sell an orchid flower booster that should be applied once a fortnight. Orchids like to be quite restricted in their pot so re-potting should only be done when they are bursting out of their pots. If re-potting use a loose, bark based orchid mix and only go into a slightly bigger pot.

Another popular long lasting houseplant is the anthurium. Sometimes known as the flamingo flower, these hardy evergreen plants have large, shiny, heart shaped leaves that add a tropical look to any situation. Their colourful flowers in shades of red, pink, white and even chocolate, sit on stiff stems above the



foliage and last for many weeks. They are best grown in a warm position with filtered light, and like the orchid, need to be free of cold drafts. They will need prolonged warmth to continue flowering. They are generally low maintenance. Regular watering is necessary over the growing season (spring to summer) to keep them looking their best, but they should be allowed to dry out slightly during the winter.

Feed your orchid in spring with a slow release fertiliser like 'Oderings Total Replenish' and again in late summer, or alternatively give it a quicker boost by liquid feeding once a fortnight. If you need to re-pot your anthurium this should only be done in early spring just before your plant starts to put on new growth.

By following these few simple rules you should have beautiful, healthy plants with displays of flowers that will be the envy of the winter garden.

Article by Michael from Oderings Yaldhurst

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WINTER SPRAYING

— MADE EASY

As deciduous plants in your garden head into winter dormancy, this is the time to take a close look at the appearance, quality and performance of your fruit, berries and roses.

Are the trees, canes and bushes strong and healthy, or do they look lumpy, spotty, and sooty? Did they underperform? If the answer is 'yes' to any of these questions, then a winter maintenance programme is all that is needed to ensure that lumps, soot and poor performance do not happen again next year, this will also ease your work load in summer.

Here is an easy four-step programme to winter maintenance and spraying.

STEP 1

In May, after you have harvested the last of your apples, pears, grapes, berries or have finished picking your roses it is time to start by pruning. On a still, dry day, with clean sharp tools, remove any dead, diseased wood/branches and remove all mummified fruit, this includes rosehips on roses.

STEP 2

Use a lime sulphur spray, (mixed to the manufacturer's instructions) and spray the whole plant from top to bottom. Make sure that you can see the spray running into the crevices, cracks and crutches of the tree/bush. You can even spray a little on the soil around the bottom of the plant where leaves may have already dropped. Sulphur spray is the most effective treatment to combat fungal diseases such as rust, brown rot, black spot, powdery and sooty mould, leaf curl and silver leaf. Sulphur also can force trees into dormancy by defoliation. So for those plants that show no sign of dropping leaves for winter dormancy, lime sulphur can kick start the process. (I have found a need for this on the new dwarf peach and nectarine tree varieties and some roses). This spray helps to control many over-wintering pests such as mites, insects and their egg laying sites and it removes lichen and moss from deciduous plants. Three to four weeks after you have completed your sulphur spray, your plants should be completely nude. Collect the fallen leaves and burn or destroy them; do not use these for leaf mulch because fungal spores transfer to the soil from fallen leaves and that re-infects plants via rain fall/water splash.

Notes:

Do not use sulphur sprays on apricots or citrus, mix with any other sprays, use on plants with new leaf growth, on evergreen plants, or within three weeks of any spraying oils. Do not prune peach, apricot or nectarine trees in winter.

STEP 3

Now spray with copper and spraying oil such as neem oil or equivalent, this will ensure that fungal disease does not enter the plant through pruning cuts. Coat the plant so that you can see the spray running down the stems and leaves, but always check the manufacturer's instructions to ensure your chosen oil is compatible with copper. Oil helps the copper stick to the plant, improving longevity of the copper spray along with providing a suffocating film to rid treated plants of scale, mealy bug and other over-wintering pests. This spray combination is excellent for all citrus trees so include them in your spray programme. Repeat this step within 10-21 days.

STEP 4

Do any further pruning needed on a clear, sunny day, removing old canes from roses and brambles. Prune, thin and shape apple, pear and plum trees.

Now your winter spray programme is complete, it is that easy!
Unless leaf curl (*Taphrina deformans*) has been a problem.

Leaf curl affects peaches, nectarines, apricots and almonds, (not plums or cherries). The symptoms are raised white or red swollen blisters on new spring foliage and in extreme cases it affects fruit quality. To treat, repeat the copper/oil spray every couple of weeks until spring buds have burst (you can see the green of the new season's leaves). Alternatively add 'Ocean Solids' and 'Trace Elements' into the soil, in most cases this will alleviate leaf curl for the entire season.

Article by Kellie from Oderings Palmerston North

Through the c



Coprosma Midnight Martini



Coprosma Tequila Sunrise



Coprosma Scarlett O'Hara



Pseudowintera

Autumn

When we think of autumn, naturally the colours of an Otago landscape with different hues of rich reds, yellows and warm orange come to mind. It is so easy for us to neglect our garden in the cooler months, but your garden does not need to be boring this season, we have so many options available for you from foliage to flowers.

Colour Hit

For spectacular year round foliage colour, I suggest using coprosmas to provide a beautiful, intense background colour.

- Midnight Martini – Black/purple foliage all year round. This can create a contemporary style in your garden, especially when adjacent to bright green foliage.
- Tequila Sunrise – This plant provides seasonal colour waves in the garden. In spring, it is a showy lime and green, followed by yellow. Autumn brings a bold, sunset orange that deepens and intensifies in the cooler months.
- Scarlet O'Hara – This is my favourite. Who can resist the shiny red foliage the colour of which intensifies into burgundy in the colder months?

All Rounders

Pseudowintera colorata – This is the horopito or pepper tree which creates fantastic dappled colour in the garden. Typically horopito grows to three metres but some varieties grow slowly to 80cm x 80cm. This mottled red and yellow shrub is hardy, tolerates part shade and copes with windy and cold climates too.

Our second all-rounder is Loropetalum chinense 'Burgundy'. We love it for its all-

year-round colour, its wispy elegant nature and hot pink flowers. Commonly known as the fringe flower, this plant gets to 1 metre (1.5 metres in hotter areas). It is very versatile; plant it as a hedge, shape it, standardise it or train it as a ground cover; it does it all.

Cheap and cheerful

Pop in some annual seedlings or seeds for a quick effect. One of my all-time favourites is the winter marigold, also known as the pot or English marigold; its botanical name is *Calendula officinalis*.

This annual is great as a border, or when planted in clusters it creates an eccentric cottage garden effect. Do you know that you can also use calendulas in your winter salads? Simply break off the petals and scatter throughout your dish, they have a slightly peppery taste and add a colour as well as flavour burst. Now is the perfect time to plant these bright orange and yellow treasures.

Sweet peas (*Lathyrus odoratus*) are a favourite in our garden; you can sow them in summer, spring or autumn. They come in every colour but yellow and grow up to 1.6 metres tall. Autumn is a good time to plant these seeds, but if you live in a frosty area wait until spring. Soaking the seeds in water for several hours before planting will speed up germination. For a novel effect, you could buy one of our obelisks and plant your seeds below that to create a stunning colorful, perfumed cone.



Loropetalum Burgundy



Calendula



Sweet Pea



cooler seasons



Daphne



Hellebore



Leucadendron

Winter

Winter brings the crisp, fresh, frosty mornings, and cool, snuggle-down evenings but the garden still has many winter possibilities for you to embrace. Can you envision a garden popping with blues and icy whites? No? Then let us help you make your own winter vista.

Colour Hit

Daphne – Yes, I know its common, but really, who could go past its amazing winter display of delightful colour and fragrance. Oderings stock other daphnes too which are real treasures; Daphne bholua from Nepal that starts flowering in late April/early May and has a sweeter perfume than D. odora. There are others too such as D. genkwa and D. cneorum which are lovely additions to the garden.

Hellebore or winter rose – This is a perennial with beautiful, open, cup-shaped flowers, which provide colour during the late winter months and throughout

spring. By planting hellebores now, you ensure an abundance of flowers for this winter and spring.

Leucadendron – this is the workhorse of the winter garden, with vibrant colours in all shades of red, yellow, white, pink etc. Leucadendrons like poor soils, loving a mixture topsoil and sand, as they hate fertiliser. They will reward such 'neglect' with unusual colourful flower bracts that smother the plant.

All Rounders

Nandina – This plant has just about everything that any home gardener or landscaper would want in a plant, with vibrant foliage that is both

graceful and lacy. Some varieties of nandina have clusters of small white flowers followed by red berries in autumn, much favoured by florists. The attractive, lacy foliage that resembles bamboo leaves is often bronze to rose in colour, becoming lime green with age. The cooler months induce strong colourings in the leaves - reds, oranges, bronzes and pink mixtures, creating an inferno. They range in size from 45cm high to 1.8 metres.

Dianella - Not only are dianellas (flax lilies) attractive, but they are tough characters that will withstand the meanest drought and coldest winters. They are low maintenance plants requiring a trim every five to eight years. With so many foliage variation colours available there is a dianella to meet every taste.

Cheap and cheerful

Who can resist a few violas in the garden? Suitable for pots, mass planting and superb planting amongst your dormant bulbs. Violas do not develop as dense a ground cover as other annuals and your bulbs can shoot right through with ease. You could also impress your guests and brighten up your plates with violas scattered throughout your winter salads.

Winter is a good excuse to get some much needed vitamins into our bodies to fight off winter sickness. Stay healthy with the very popular vegetable kale, which you can use this in broths, stir-fries or try as chips. Seeds and punnets are available in-store.

While we are talking about kale, have you planted the flowering kale? This is a trendy plant used in borders, pots and planters and even floral arrangements. Just look at this 'eye popping' display.

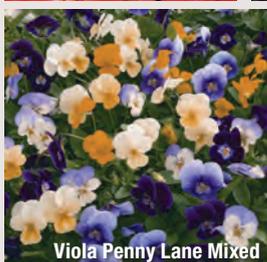
Article by Jenna from Oderings Hamilton



Nandina



Dianella



Viola Penny Lane Mixed



Flowering Kale White



Flowering Kale Red

Jiffy

POTS AND PELLETS

Jiffy pots and pellets are rapidly becoming the number one choice of gardeners everywhere. Using Jiffy pots for seed raising and propagating cuttings is so simple that gardeners of almost any age can use them with success.

At Oderings, we pride ourselves on supplying our customers with quality products and 'Easi Grow Jiffy' products tick all of the boxes. We use Jiffy products in our own propagation nurseries and are proud to offer them to home gardeners. We have had a lot of feedback from our customers about Jiffy and the reports are just as glowing as those from our nursery management – the products are very simple and very successful.

Jiffy not only makes seed raising incredibly easy it is also completely biodegradable and environmentally friendly. The Jiffy pellet comprises both pot and soil. The major benefit of Jiffy peat products is their ability to leave the seedling or cutting in the pot when transplanting. You simply bury the entire pot with the plant still in it thus preventing plant shock, as the root system remains undisturbed.

Which Jiffy product should you use?

- The 'Jiffy Pellet' is ideal for both seed growing and cutting propagation. Simply wet the pellet, place your seed in the middle and watch it grow. If you want to grow a favourite plant, take a cutting, dip the cut end into Egmont's 'Ibadex Rooting Compound' and insert the cutting into the damp pellet - it is that simple. The Jiffy pellet is sold in packs of 20, or with a 'Mini Propagating Kit' that provides warmth and humidity to aid rapid growth.
- The 'Jiffy Pot' comes in a packs of 12 or 24 singles, or as a cell tray. The Jiffy pot can be used to start virtually any plant indoors or out. It is great for starting larger plants such as tomatoes, eggplants, pumpkins, as well as trees and shrubs.
- The 'Jiffy Cell Trays' are ideal for preventing the roots of your seed crops growing into each other. Simply tear them apart when it is time to transplant into your larger pot or garden.



All our stores sell Jiffy pots, pellets and trays and our staff are able to give you any advice you need on this highly successful product.

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Easi-Grow Pots

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Sumanti

This lovely range of New Zealand made products brings one thing to mind – affordable quality! These bath and spa salts soften and moisturise dry skin and are available in three signature fragrances of 'Fresh Roses', 'Jasmine & Ylang Ylang' or 'Lime & Coconut'. Only \$22.99 each for 300gms.



Therapy Garden



This lovely set of three herb/flower bottles comes in a trendy, white metal carrier. This is an ideal choice for the coffee table, windowsill or dinner table to bring a little of the garden indoors for only \$12.99 each.



Poppies

For the month of April come and reflect, and remember 100 years of ANZACs by purchasing some poppies for your home. They are available in three colours and during April these are will be sold for a discounted price of just \$6.99 per stem, but they normally retail for \$11.50.



Metal Obelisk

If you are after something a little different to grow your sweet peas and other climbing plants on, then these metal obelisks may be just the touch of inspiration you are looking for. They come in three sizes with a bird on top. Priced from \$34.99 each.



Gumboots

We are excited to show you the new 'Lifestyler Tall Gumboots' in purple butterfly. This fully lined boot is 100% waterproof, lightweight, flexible and hardwearing. There are many other styles and colours to choose from, including men's gumboots. The range priced from \$69.99 a pair.



Hanging Planters

Can you imagine the possibilities with these strong and solid hanging planters? Beautify your living easily by hanging plants in areas that lack surfaces on which to stand pot plants. They cost \$29.99 each and the pots are 18cm high by 16.1cm wide with an adjustable hanging length of 50-100cm.



Umbrellas

Fantastic quality with beautiful designs. Perfect for the bad winter weather.

Styles will vary from store to store \$69.99 each.



Cute Critters

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- Controls a very broad range of disease and insect pests.
- Controls both sucking and chewing insect pests, particularly effective against aphids and whitefly.
- Rose Force is fast acting.
- No leaf burn.

PLANThealth

Insect Hit

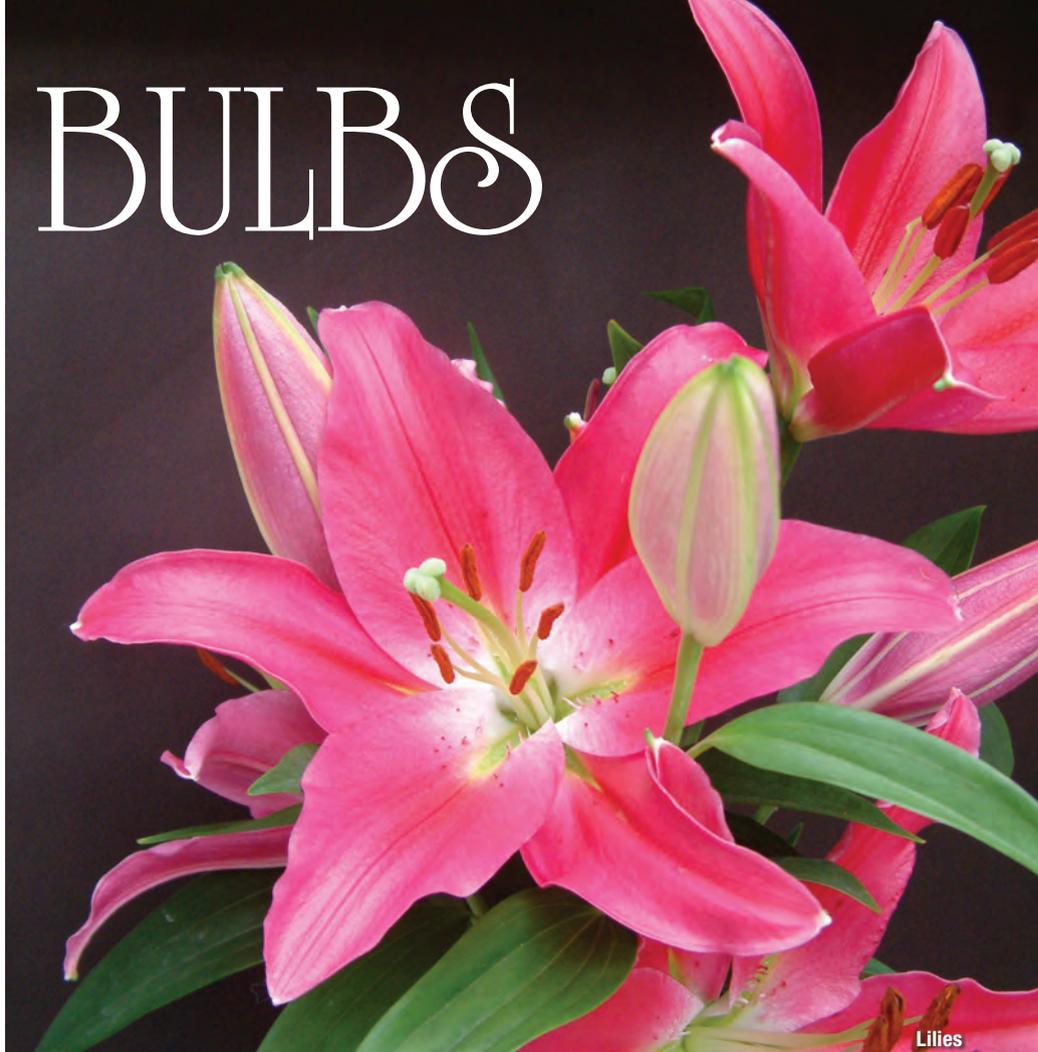
Controls a wide range of insects on ornamentals, trees, shrubs and roses.

- Systemic - moves into and through the plant to protect all parts.
- Low toxicity.
- Effective control of a broad range of sucking and chewing insect pests.
- One application gives up to 1 month protection.
- No leaf burn.



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BULBS



A garden that contains a good selection of different bulbs is assured of colour from late winter until summer. Jonquils, lachenalias and crocus in late winter are followed by daffodils, anemones and ranunculi. Spring brings hyacinths, freesias, tritonias and watsonias, and in summer there are callas, lilies and gladioli.

When planting bulbs in the garden they require a well-drained, sandy loam which is not overly rich. You can improve heavy soils by adding coarse sand or 'Oderings Compost'. 'Tui Bulb Fertiliser' should be incorporated into the soil during preparation and prior to planting (always avoid direct contact between the bulb and fertiliser or fresh manure). The bulbs will also respond well to a feed with a liquid fertiliser as buds start to appear and again after flowers have finished.

Many bulbs will grow to perfection in tubs, pots or troughs, which can be moved around the garden, terrace or balcony. Smaller flowering bulbs

such as daffodils, jonquils, hyacinths, bluebells, lachenalias, freesias and tulips can be moved inside as they start to flower. The containers need to be at least 15cm deep to allow for good root growth and always pot up using a bulb potting mix. Plant your bulbs to their required depth and twice as close as you would in the garden. Keep your containers in a cool, shady place until the leaves emerge, then move into a sunny area. To promote earlier flowering on tall strong stems, place the hyacinths, tulips, anemone and ranunculus into the fridge (7-10 degrees) for three to four weeks before planting (Note: bulbs in pots are generally not suitable for reusing for next season).





Tulips



Hyacinth



Muscari



Bluebells



Iris



Daffodil



Anemone



Snowdrops

On wet and cold days when winter has us firmly in her grip, how a patch of snowdrops can gladden the heart.

They begin their flowering when little else does and so make themselves an invaluable addition to our gardens. Experts believe there are 18 distinct species and many more varieties and cultivars, but *Galanthus nivalis*, more commonly known as the English Snowdrop, appears in late July in Canterbury and it is the one most of us will know. These are the bulbs so cherished by the first immigrants, however, this snowdrop is not British, and the antecedents were brought from Europe at the end of the 16th century. This snowdrop emerges from the cold wet soil with leaves pressed together, like hands in prayer. The flowers are a typical snowdrop bloom with green, inverted V-shaped markings at the tips of the inner petals. Planted under deciduous trees they should bulk up quickly if fed a little and kept mulched for even moisture.

How to grow

A deciduous woodland situation is generally the best, otherwise plant in a moist position with well-drained soil. They relish a light feed of blood & bone or general fertiliser at the start of their growing season, but otherwise should be left alone as much as possible. The bulbs divide readily when the leaves begin to die back, but don't leave them out of the soil for too long or let them dry out. One pest is the Narcissus fly which drops eggs into the dying foliage, one or two of which will grow into grubs, eating out the inside of the bulb, if not killing it, setting the bulb back several years. Companion planting with other woodland plants distracts the flies from their quest. Twin scaling can be carried out on snowdrops to bulk up quickly. Ripe, yellowing whole pods can be sown when the seeds are still moist. One year later leaves will appear and flowers in three to four years.

Thanks to Marion Saxton and Suzanne Pickford for supplying this article.

Name	Planting Season	Depth CM	Distance CM	Flowering Season
Anemone	Autumn	3	15	Spring Early Summer
Begonia	Spring	Note A	In pots	Spring
Bluebells	Autumn	7	10	Summer
Calla	Late Autumn-Winter	10	20	summer
Canna	Winter-Early spring	5	50	summer
Crocus	Autumn	5	10	Late Winter-Early Spring
Daffodil	Autumn	12	10-15	Spring
Dahlia	Spring	7	30	Summer-Autumn
Freesia	Autumn	7	7	Spring
Fritillaria	Autumn	10	30	Spring
Gladiolus	Late Winter-Spring	10	20	Summer
Grape Hyacinth	Autumn	7	10	Spring
Hippeastrum	Winter	Note A	35	Late Spring-Summer
Hyacinth	Autumn	Note A 10	15	Spring
Ixia	Autumn	7	10	Spring
Jonquil	Autumn	10	10	Late Winter-Early Spring
Lachenalia	Autumn	7	10	Spring
Lillium	Late Autumn-Winter	10-20	35	Summer
Lily of the valley	Winter	3	10	Late Spring
Ranunculus	Autumn	3	15	Spring
Snowdrop	Autumn	7	10	Spring
Snowflake	Autumn	7	10	Spring
Sparaxis	Autumn	7	10	Spring
Tulip	Autumn	12	12	Spring
Watsonia	Autumn	7	30	Spring

Note A=Plant with top of the bulb at the soil surface or slightly above.



Camellia Fairy Blush



Did you know there is a camellia that flowers for four to five months? Camellia 'Fairy Blush' bred by Mark Jury from a seedling of the camellia species *C. lutchuensis* flowers this long.

'Fairy Blush' is a miniature camellia, i.e. it has small flowers and small leaves, but it is not small growing. Small leaves and flowers make it suitable for use as a low hedge of, say, one metre in height, or you can let it grow to its natural height of around 2.5 to three metres if desired. For use in hedging put the plants in one metre apart to ensure a dense growth with leaves from the ground upwards. You could also grow it as a bush or trim it as a topiary ball or pillar. Camellia 'Fairy Blush' is also a great garden or container plant.

The flower colours are a light apple blossom pink, fading to a paler pink in the centre with a wonderful perfume. Profuse flowers are borne all along the branches are a great source of nectar for birds, especially tui and wax eyes in the winter months. Bees find the flowers attractive and there is a lot of research underway on the benefits of camellia nectar for bees over the winter period.

Another special feature of this camellia is the foliage colour; the new growth is red-orange in spring. A light trim around Christmas leads to new growth around February with another burst of foliage colour. Any heavy pruning for shape should take place after flowering.

As with any camellia, there are a few tips to ensuring your plants thrive. A layer of good mulch is probably the most important thing you can do for your plants. It prevents the soil surface from drying out and becoming caked, and keeps the surface roots cool – camellias love that.

In hot dry summers, a good deep watering once a week should be ample, unless it is in a container where once a day would be required but remember that no plant likes to have wet feet or to be continually water logged.

Feeding should be kept to a minimum, especially on younger plants yet to establish themselves, so a good slow release fertiliser once a



year such as Oderings 'Total Replenish' should be enough in most normal garden situations. Plants more than three years old need fertilising, feed container-grown plants twice a year with 'Total Replenish', or use 'Acid Fertiliser' for those growing in the garden.

Pests should not be a problem in the home garden. You may get a few aphids or leaf roller caterpillars and these are easily controlled.

New season's camellias will be arriving at all Oderings branches in March-April where 'Fairy Blush' will be available in both bush and standard forms.

Thanks to Cambrian Nurseries for providing this article



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gypsum

Gypsum breaks down clay soils and works well in conjunction with compost and/or organic matter. Clay soils have very tiny particles that gypsum binds together making larger particles that allow plants' roots to breathe, and enable the flow of water through the soil.

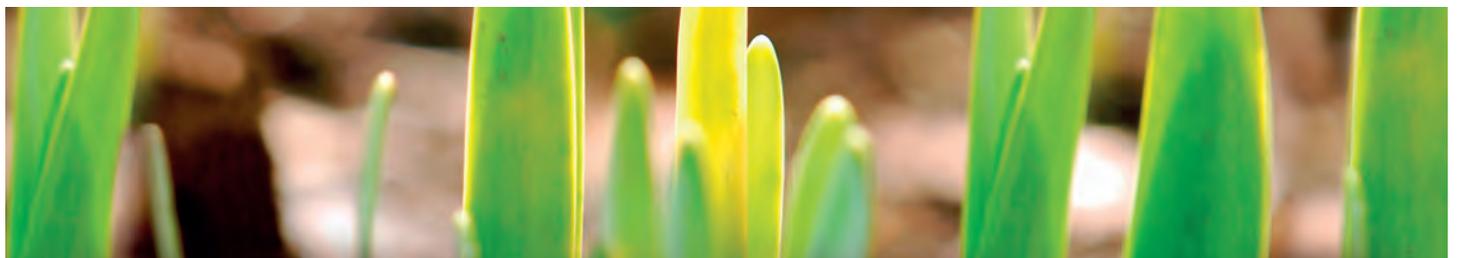
Gypsum, however, has more uses than just breaking down clay soil because it contains two very essential garden elements, calcium and sulphur. Calcium is important to plant health because it helps to build stronger cell structure in the root stem and fruit development. Plants use sulphur to produce chlorophyll thus helping photosynthesis, which is essential in plant growth.

Gypsum is a naturally occurring mineral that has many uses in the home garden. If you grew tomatoes last summer, and you found blossom end rot (the bottoms all black and sunken) when you harvested this was

due to insufficient calcium being available to the plant. In addition, if you dug your spuds and they were scabby, this is also due to a lack of calcium. Neither tomatoes nor potatoes like lime so apply one kilogram per square metre of gypsum when planting but none later. Lawns benefit from a yearly application of gypsum and it is valuable around fruit trees as the calcium helps the development of fruit.

Overall, gypsum is a fantastic product for the home garden. It is a natural, safe product and completely safe to use. If you over apply gypsum it has no adverse effect; it is also suitable for organic gardening.

Article by Janine from Oderings Barrington



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Bouquet Garni

WINTER FLAVOUR BOOST

When the days are growing shorter and the nights colder, thoughts of body warming comfort foods start to take precedence in menu planning.

A bouquet of herbs tied together with string is a winter warming flavour to use in casseroles, soups, stews and stocks. Traditionally this bouquet garni (as it is known in French cookery) is assembled with one bay leaf (stimulates appetite), two sprigs of thyme (aids digestion of fatty foods) and three sprigs of parsley (digestive aid).

Let's take a closer look at the elements of a bouquet garni...

First, the bay leaf which comes from the sweet bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*), a shrubby evergreen tree that grows easily in most soil types. You can trim bay trees easily, even growing them as a standard with the traditional single stem and lollipop top. While fresh bay leaves are good, drying intensifies the flavour. To dry the leaves place them in a dark, dry area to develop the intensity of flavour and richness of colour.

Thyme species and cultivars are numerous and they vary in appearance, scent and flavour. The most aromatic types are the ones best used for culinary purposes e.g. common thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*), wild thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*) and lemon thyme (*Thymus citriodorus*). You can also use more modern varieties of thyme, such as pizza or turkey thyme. Thyme enjoys sunny, sheltered garden spots with organically enriched soils, and watering during prolonged dry spells. Thyme is an evergreen, so sprigs can be picked all year round. The most intense flavour occurs when the plant is flowering, so pick and dry your thyme then. To make a bouquet garni with dried thyme you will need to wrap the herb bundle in plain cotton muslin as dried thyme crumbles easily.

Lastly, there are two types of parsley: curly parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*) and flat leaved/ Italian parsley, (*P. hortense filicum*) they are probably the most widely recognised and commonly grown herbs in Western culture. Parsley is a standout herb for flavour and easily grown from seed, which is notoriously slow to germinate often taking three weeks or more for seedlings to appear.

For the bouquet garni select three stems of parsley, wash well, remove excess water and tie the parsley in with your bay leaf and thyme. Immerse the bundle (bouquet garni) in the dish you are cooking.

You can use other herbs to add to, or as substitutes in, your bouquet garni. For instance, add rosemary to the bouquet garni with lamb and venison stews, add sage for pork, oreganum for minestrone soup or tomato and vegetable casseroles. You could try lemon verbena or lemon

grass (before the frosts reduce their availability) in chicken casseroles or when making chicken stock, or for fish dishes. Alternatively, you could tie in a stem of sweet fennel leaf for a subtle, sweet aniseed flavour.

Remember, regardless of the time of year you can still turn to your herb garden for flavoursome ingredients. As you tie the string around the herbs in bouquet garni, you can be certain you are following in the footsteps of generations of successful classic chefs and competent cooks. Bon appetit!

Article by Isobel from Oderings Cashmere

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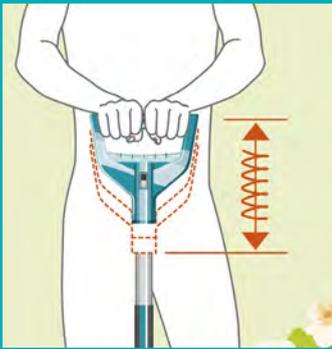
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