



527 OLD RENWICK ROAD, RD2, BLENHEIM 7272
 MARLBOROUGH - NEW ZEALAND
 PHONE +64-3-578-0468, FAX +64-3-578-0806
 EMAIL: info@kiwiseed.co.nz
 WEBSITE: www.kiwiseed.co.nz

NEWSLETTER

November 2011



Simon Fowler and Dick Lucas inspecting the legume trail sight

Large scale Legume over sowing trail.

Kiwi Seeds is heavily involved in a large scale dryland legume over sowing trail up the Wairau valley. The trail is being run at 'The Bounds', Harry, Simon and Jane Fowlers property and is being guided by Lincoln University Professor Dick Lucas. The trail contains a number of dryland legumes including Subterranean clover, Balansa, and Gland clover. When the sight was last visited, on the 13th of October, the Gland and subterranean were in flower and showing good potential for the future.

There are a number of dryland legume trail projects happening throughout the Marlborough region where Kiwi Seed Co (Marlborough) Limited is involved. If you would like further information on this please contact us.

Daltons Premium Potting Mix provides the ideal growing medium for all plants both indoor and outdoor - in pots, tubs, troughs and containers. It contains a full blend of fertilisers including controlled release fertiliser and a wetting agent, for improved plant growth and vigour. Excellent for indoor and outdoor plants. Made from sustainable and renewable resources, feed plants for up to 10 months,



Daltons Premium Seed Mix is specially formulated to ensure your seedlings receive the best possible start. It is used by leading cell growers throughout New Zealand. And has a blend of Coco Fibre, screened New Zealand Bark Fines and Pumice and contains Mini controlled release fertiliser to ensure even growth and nutrients for up to 4 months, made from sustainable and renewable resources.



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Garden Centre

Tasks for November

November is the last month of spring and the plants in our gardens are all growing fast.

To continue this rapid growth, regular light applications of fertiliser will help. For those organic gardeners regular mulching with well-made compost encourages good growth while others may prefer applying prepared well balanced slow release fertiliser.

Now is the time to ensure your irrigation system is working well for the long hot summer. Applying mulches is a good way to conserve water in the garden.

Plant bedding plants now that the risk of very late frosts has gone and tries to get them in by mid November for best results for a Christmas garden. Sulphate of potash (30grams per square metre) helps strengthen the stems and intensifies the colour of the flowers.

Prepare and plant hanging baskets, pots and window boxes for a Christmas display.

Look after the roses this month. Young stems can get damaged in the strong winds. Watch out for Aphids, black spot and rust and spray accordingly.

Prune spring flowering shrubs after they have finished flowering. This will give the plants a long growing season to encourage them to flower next year.

Remove seed heads from rhododendrons and azaleas.

Ensure the garden is well watered. A good soaking is better than just a little each day.

Mow lawns regularly to obtain a nice sward of grass. Regular mowing at the same height each time is the best. Apply some fertiliser to encourage healthy growth.

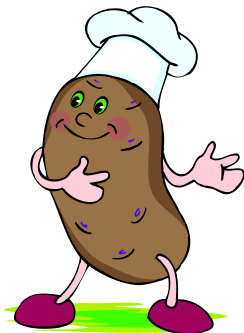
Strawberries will be throwing out flower trusses this month and fruiting shortly after. Support the fruit on a pad of straw to stop them becoming dirty and to allow them to ripen nicely.

On apple trees watch out for apple woolly aphids. These white fluffy insects can do a lot of damage to the tree and cause swelling of the branches. Start spraying with pesticides to control chewing and sucking insects.



If your trees are relatively free of pests and diseases, hold off on the sprays.

The type of potato you choose to plant will depend on its taste and what you want to do with it. Some spuds make better chips; others roasting, while newer varieties are more disease resistant. Once purchased, remove your seed potatoes from the bag and leave them in a dark, dry place to sprout for a few weeks. When the potato shoots and are approximately 2 cm long



they're ready to plant. Before doing so, add some compost to the soil and mix well. Dig a shallow trench in your garden and place the potatoes inside - approximately three feet apart. Mound the soil up around and on top of the potatoes. New spuds hate frost, so cover them entirely to protect them. Once a month mound the soil around the potato plant. Ensure 5 cm of the plant's stem is left sticking out the top. You don't want any light to reach your spuds as this can affect how many potatoes your plant will produce. To keep diseases away don't overhead water your potatoes excessively. Some gardeners believe you should harvest your potatoes when the flowers on your potato plant begin

to die off, beware, some new spud varieties don't produce flowers. The best way to tell if your spuds are ready is to dig a few up to check. Sounds simple enough! With a spade, loosen the soil around a few of your potato plants, put your hand in the soil and gently pull out a spud ensuring you don't break the shoot connecting it to the plant. If your potatoes are green, cover with soil and leave to mature further.

Once you've harvested your spuds dig the plant back in to the ground. Potato plants produce nitrogen and digging them in increases your soil's nitrogen levels which is the most important element for good plant production and growth.

Benefits to plants: Increased root growth and shoot growth, Faster & better establishment, Greater anchorage, Improved water uptake, Healthier plants, increased nutrient uptake, Greater crop growth and productivity

'Little & Often':

Seeds: 10ml/9 litres water. Soak seeds for 12 hours before sowing

Planting Out: 20ml/9 litres water. Drench root ball before planting out

Young plants: 45ml/9 litres water. 2 soil application no more than 4 weeks apart

Established plants: 45ml/9 litres water. Every 7-14 days

Fruit trees: 45ml/9 litres water. Spray several times before and during flowering to improve flower set, then fortnightly.

