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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

Welcome 2018

Direct drilling and other No till farming cultivation techniques have become very popular over the last couple years, this for good reason. It saves time, it's said to work well in challenging conditions, it's cost effective and benefits to the environment due to lower energy inputs and impact on soil as habitat. Direct drilling is also excellent for erosion control.

This spring we have been called out more than once to have a look at why the paddock has failed to establish after being sown using above described technique. With all the pros in mind lets talk about the disadvantages of direct drilling.

One disadvantage is that due to crop residue cover soils dry up more slowly and temperatures in the soil are lower. If crop rotation is not adequate, then the risk of some diseases that remain in the crop residue can increase.

The amount of perennial weeds can also increase using this technique.

In the conventional system, a direct drill is used to sow seed into an uncultivated paddock after the existing pasture has been killed by herbicide. This practice can create different problems– the choice of chemical or residue chemical left in the spray gear can cause newly emerging plants to terminate.

Another fact is that the nutrient concentration close to the soil surface will increase when soil is not mixed (ploughed), because of that there is a higher risk of leaching of soluble nutrients. Adding Lime, manure and other soil amendments is limited.

Direct drills can create channels in the soil in which slugs and other insects can easily hide during the day. Slugs love fresh new shoots and can be devastating– an easy way to check numbers is to place a sack or two in the middle of the field and to count slug numbers in the morning.

Direct drilling and No till cultivation are a great way to renew an old pasture, or plant your next crop but they aren't always successful and good old ploughing should be considered from time to time.

Regards Maren

Horse Feed Block with Mycotex

A complementary, mineralised feeding block with Mycotex mycotxin neutraliser. Mycotex is safe for all classes of farmed livestock including horses, cattle, swine, poultry, alpacas and llamas.



Summit Salt Blocks, made here in Marlborough, available at Kiwi Seed Co

Multi mineral salt block

Agricultural salt, convenient for all year round for optimised production



Summit Littlix salt blocks

Suitable for high country sheep farming with trace minerals for animals.



Summit Magnesium salt block

Blocks are made with extra Magnesium and are used during calving and lactation.



Apple cider vinegar

For keeping the digestive system healthy, great for arthritic joints. It's even a natural insecticide not just for horses but all animals and humans too.

Comes in plain, garlic and a combo Manuka honey and garlic.

Sizes: 20L, 5L, 1L

An Apple a day keeps the doctor away.

After a busy spring with sowing and planting veggies and flowers, it's now time to keep up with the water and the fertiliser. A couple of minutes weeding per day and checking for pests and diseases will help keep on top of things and prevent a gardener's nightmare.

Make sure your lawnmower is set on higher mowing height to keep some green. This will help with lawns drying out quickly.

Remove dead flower heads especially from roses to encourage more blooms. Harvest first fruits and veggies, enjoy flowers and life as a gardener.



"Your brain is your garden, what you sow is what you will reap.

Seed it with hope, positive energy, good manners and creativity.

Irrigate it with faith, hard work and good company."
Zeyad Massry

Birds are helpful insectivores and entertainers

One of the best insect eaters in NZ is the Silvereye/ Waxeye. How to attract birds like the Silvereye, Fantails and others back into our garden?

A water supply for a refreshing bath and to quench a birds thirst is a good start. Offering sugar water (200g brown sugar per litre water) and fruit are the best foods to attract native birds like bellbirds and tuis.

Homemade bird cakes including fat (lard), seed and dried fruit or ready made bird bells can be hung from the branches of trees out of reach of cats.

Remember to be patient it may take some time for birds to find the food.

We have got wild bird seed at various sizes, bird bells, feeders, drinkers and a wide range of seed for all cage birds available here at Kiwi Seed.



Jeremy Kyle



Rabbits and Guinea pigs love eating fresh herbs and grasses.

We have designed a seed mix for your backyard which will supply a natural, healthy food source all year round.

Also new here at the shop are small apple and carrot snacks to spoil your little friends.

100% natural untreated Wood shavings — a very versatile product.

Mostly used as animal bedding for small mammals, cows, horses, chickens, pigs and other farm animals. Shavings absorb droppings and odours. Used shavings can be added to compost this makes an excellent fertiliser and mulch for your garden.

If you haven't got a garden or animals, shavings can be used to soak up oil spills, on the compost toilet or as packaging and as craft material.



420 ltr

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You can also use the same address to unsubscribe from the newsletter if you wish.

Thank you from all at Kiwi Seed.