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NEWSLETTER

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Last week the organic wine conference was held here in Blenheim. 350 delegates from around the country and the world gathered to share practical ideas, latest scientific findings etc. The overall take home message was very clear. We can't keep going like we are and there is no reason we have to. Currently mother nature and all her creations eventually become sick, every day 150 species disappear already from the globe.

What's needed is education (Nature Literacy and Eco Literacy) of youngsters and adults alike. Education plays a big part in stopping the current destructive trend. But also needed is transparency in terms of how and where food is being grown, so people can make the right choices.

The large number of people that are already growing food and wine in a natural way prove that this can be done. So what can you do? Educate yourself, set up your own garden, plant veggies, fruit, flowers and hedges for yourself and the wildlife. Take your kids out into nature— show them nature is worth fighting for. Make friends with people that are on the similar path, after all friends will support you through tough times, improve your mood, health (stress reduction/ depression) and help you to reach your goals.

Regards Maren

Broad beans, garlic, yams and large variety of seed potatoes for planting in store.



While the frost deals with most insects out in the garden, unwanted creatures in the glasshouse are having a good time. There are plenty of products around and we stock a range here at Kiwi Seed including:

Nature's Way Citrus, Vegie & Ornamental Insect Spray

- Controls scale, aphids, caterpillars, leafhoppers, mealybug, thrips, whitefly, mites and ants.
- Can be used on indoor or outdoor plants.
- Low-toxic ingredients derived from natural sources – pyrethrum daisy, and canola oil.
- BioGro approved for organic gardening.
- Boosted with seaweed to deliver relief from plant stress, and aids recovery from pest and Insect damage.
- Ready to use formula, in a handy spray gun.
- One day withholding period – simply wash and eat produce one day after spraying.



Copper Oxchloride is helpful to prevent leaf curl on peaches.

It's best applied in the autumn/ winter and again before budburst and green tip.

Broad spectrum copper spray that controls a wide range of fungal and bacterial diseases.



Summit Magnesium Salt Blocks

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



New arrivals are due this month

*Anlamb, Ancalf and NRM
 Calf milk replacer,
 bottles and teats*



During the cold winter months plenty of people increase their daily intake on oranges, lemons, mandarins etc. to fight the runny noses etc., but what to do with the peels? Citrus peels on the compost? The opinions tend to differ sharply.



Some people think *citrus peels* will hurt the worms, this is not the case. Many worms don't like to eat them at least not until they have partially decomposed. Since vermicomposting (wormfarm) relies on worms eating the scraps you put into their bin, citrus peels simply would not work in vermicomposting. Still citrus peels can be added to the traditional compost pile, simply cut peels into small pieces to speed up the break down process.

Concerned about the fact that penicillium molds grow on citrus especially on homegrown fruit? In most instances, the heating up process of the compost pile should effectively alleviate any future mold issues, given penicillium prefers a cooler environment.

The citrus smell can also work to your advantage to keep common compost pests away from your pile.

Wood ashes— now is the time to collect wood ashes from the fireplace.

Wood ash is an excellent source of lime, potassium and trace elements that plants need to thrive. Wood ashes raise the pH in soil so scatter lightly around the garden unless you have a pH level of 7 or higher. Keep some ash to make tea for tomato's later in the year. 2.5 gm wood ash per litre water needed, soak 4 days in homemade teabag and water around your tomato plants a cupful once per week, as soon as the plants begin to flower.

Ashes can be added to the compost heap in small amounts but stay away from using it on acid loving plants like rasp-, straw-, and blueberries as well as rhododendrons, azaleas, parsley and potatoes. Later will get the scab disease if the pH is too high. Check your soil pH by using the simple experiment described in our newsletter November 2018, all newsletters can be found on our website.



Transplanting *strawberries* during the cool part of the year (now) minimises stress and increases the probability of success. Strawberries prefer a sunny spot with well drained nutrient rich soil— amend your soil with compost, a sprinkle of wood ashes and some sheep pellets prior to transplanting. Use straw around them to protect the fruit from soil diseases, moisture stress and weeds during the year.

Top up available nutrients when the first flowers appear with blood and bone meal, worm or seaweed tea, alternatively use the Kiwi Seed strawberry and tomato fertiliser blend prior planting and at flowering stage. Seasonal fruiting berries — fertilise again in autumn after last harvest.

Everbearing and day- neutral varieties need regular nutrient supply.

KINPACK Sheep manure natural soil conditioner— in store

Offering a natural source of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

- Add to compost to accelerate decomposition, microbial and worm activity.
- Use as liquid fertiliser on all gardens and is a good stimulant for all plants.

Tip: Place KINPACK in a bucket or drum, (NOTE: The strength of the liquid manure depends largely on the ratio of manure to water and the size of your container). Suggested: 1kg of KINPACK to 10 litres of water. Adjust to suit your requirements. Leave the liquid in your container for a few days, stir regularly, then apply as required.

- Add straight to the garden 1- 3 kg/sq m (poorer soils require greater rate), lightly water before digging in.



Keep your wild bird feeders full with Kiwi Seed wild bird mix.
Available in 1kg, 5kg, 10kg and 25kg

We would like to do our bit for the environment by sending out our accounts and newsletters via email.

Please subscribe by emailing us at info@kiwiseed.co.nz.

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

Thank you from all at Kiwi Seed.