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Garden Corner

Gardening for June.

Plant seedlings: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, brussel sprouts, silverbeet, spinach, onion. Protect these from the cold/frost while young.

Sow seeds: spinach, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, brussel sprouts, lettuce, onions and peas.

Condition soil-we have a variety of soil conditioners, gypsum, compost, sheep pellets etc available.

Feed citrus with citrus fertiliser. Spray with copper oxychloride to prevent brown rot and verrucosis.

Prune fruit trees as the they become bare of leaves. Use copper spray and winter oil to prevent bugs burrowing in for winter.



Sprout new potatoes

SEED POTATOES AVAILABLE INSTORE NOW



AGRIA CLIFF KIDNEY ILAM HARDY JERSEY BENNE LISETA MARIS ANCHOR ROCKET SWIFT

The best time to be planting Potatoes is from July, more often September to December in New Zealand.

- Choose a sheltered site that receives at least five hours of sun, free draining soil and does not compete for moisture with other plants.
- The soil needs to be well worked to a depth of 25-30cm. The addition of compost or sheep pellets will be beneficial. The addition of gypsum to clay like soils and raising the beds for drainage will help.
- Place your seed potatoes in a warm area to allow the 'eyes' have produced 20mm sprouts.
- Plant at 10cm deep, 35-45cm apart, with rows being 75cm apart. This allows room to 'mound up' soil around each plant.
- Start mounding your potatoes when the shoots reach 20cm, apply a potato fertiliser before mounding. Mound again when a further 20cm shoot growth occurs until approx. 30cm of mounding is achieved. The mounding helps to give the tubers space to form and grow, it also protects the plant from any late frosts.

Plants need to be kept well watered for development of tubers and fertilised regularly with potato fertiliser.

Early varieties are ready for harvest approximately three months after planting and when the flowers are open, main crops may take up to twice that time and are ready when the foliage dies down.

FEEDING CONCENTRATES AND GRAINS—animals

Young growing animals and old animals require extra feed such as concentrates (pelletised or prepared meals) as well as hay in order to provide the energy and protein they need. So too do animals which are lactating or pregnant. Animals that are in poor body condition also benefit from supplementary concentrate feed, and horses in work need extra rations to maintain their body weight.

Any new foods should at first be offered in small daily amounts, gradually increasing to the full ration over a period of one to three weeks. This is called preconditioning. Feed must be spread out so that shy feeders get a chance to eat and greedy individuals don't gorge.

Grain should be fed with roughage such as pasture, hay or straw and not as the sole diet. For sheep, only about 50 gm grain should be offered for each of the first 10 days, spreading it out in a long line to give all the sheep the chance to eat it. Oats are probably less likely to cause problems than wheat, which requires a more prolonged period of preconditioning.

It is important to remember that water must always be available to help keep the digestive system healthy, even in winter. This is particularly important if dry foods like hay or concentrates are being fed.

We have an excellent range of concentrates and grains for all livestock. Come in and talk to us about your requirements.

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.*