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NEWSLETTER

May 2023



Growing a healthy soil is a very sensible solution to making sure the ground is more capable to hold its moisture and provide enough nutrients for healthy vegetables even during those dry, hot parts of the year.

Irrigation will still be required in some parts of the country to ensure your veggies, flowers and fruits are flourishing next summer, just not as often as on dead soil with nil organic matter.

Now is a great time to prep your garden for spring time and set up conditions to build healthy soil over winter. Legumes are great plants for this matter.

Broad beans and Peas are legumes, which will fix atmospheric Nitrogen through symbiosis with rhizobia within nodules in their root system.

Beans and peas can be eaten and when the plant dies the fixed Nitrogen is released, making it available to other plants. Either dig in on the spot or add to your compost heap. Double winner.

Kiwi Seed have a couple varieties available in store.

Also available and great for building healthy soils are Lupins (legume) especially together with Black Oats and Mustard. Sow now and mulch/ dig in on the spot coming spring or add to your compost heap to make great compost.

Pine Cone and Peanut Butter Bird Treats

These are such an easy DIY and great to involve small kids in. You don't need anything fancy and the wild birds will thank you for their winter treats!

Equipment

Pinecones
Butter knife or spatula for little kids
Twine or ribbon
Small dish or bowl for the birdseed
Cookie sheet
Aluminium foil

Ingredients

Peanut butter
Wild bird seed
Black oiled sunflower seeds

Instructions

Tie the twine around the top of the pinecone and form a loop for hanging.

In a small dish, pour some birdseed and sunflower seeds

Cover cookie sheet with aluminum foil

Using a butter knife or spatula cover the entire pinecone in peanut butter.

Roll and press the peanut butter covered pinecone into the seeds.

Place the pinecones on the cookie sheet and pop them in the freezer for 1 hour so they can firm up.

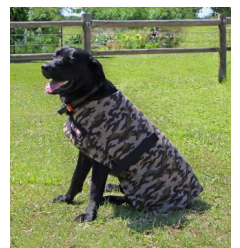
Hang them outside for the birds, making sure to hang them where there is a branch underneath for them to perch on.



Keep your dogs warm over winter with a cozy coat.

Three styles to choose from at great prices.

Bring your dog in for a fitting.



Seed Garlic now available

Printanor, is a French, white skinned variety that grows medium sized bulbs of garlic that keep well.



Elephant, looks like a giant garlic bulb and has a mild garlic flavor, it is more closely related to leeks than to garlic. Elephant garlic is a biennial, meaning it completes its life cycle in two growing seasons. You typically will get a single bulb in the first year when the plant doesn't flower. All of the plant's resources go into building up that single bulb, which will help it survive into its second year and send up flower stalks. In the second year, the one bulb typically divides into multiple separate cloves.

Out in the garden

May

How to plant Garlic

Rule 1

Traditional planting time is around the shortest day. Professional Marlborough growers do plant from late July till August. Delayed planting time results in more uniform bulbs due to settled weather. In the Nelson area May plantings have also produced good crops. According to the moon calendar—19th to 26 May is a good time, and again with next full moon in June.

Rule 2

Use seed garlic from nurseries or Kiwi Seed only as this will grow. Garlic on supermarket shelves might not due to temperature treatments.

Rule 3

Best to plant into light soil with pH around 6, provide good levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and calcium

(NPK 12:10:10 as base fertiliser and maybe some Nitrophoska Blue, incorporate fertiliser or good amount of compost couple weeks prior planting.

Rule 4

Don't break cloves of bulbs until the day of planting and soak cloves 20 min in water before planting, this to prevent dehydration of cloves in the soil. Plant big healthy looking cloves only and harvest bigger bulbs.

Rotate your crop to prevent disease build up (follow brassicas), a good companion crop is parsnip.

Plant 2.5 cm deep and keep the ground weed free. Pea straw or Fibre Earth is great as mulch on top **(see in store for more details).**

Rule 5

Don't let the ground get too dry during spring but stop watering from December 10. The top will feed the bottom as the plant shuts down and matures.

Rule 6

Lift Garlic when the tops start to die down.

Rule 7

Hang up straight away in a dry spot with moderate temperature to keep skins intact, this will improve storage.

Other Jobs in the Garden

Sow seeds of beetroot, broccoli, broad beans, cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, onions, radish, spinach, swedes and turnips directly into your garden bed.

Feed citrus trees with Kiwi Seed Citrus Fert to maintain good health.

Mulch vegetables and fruit trees with Daltons Compost and Mulch & Grow.

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