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Newsletter May 2025

## MAY SPECIALS 2025

**\$34.50**



**\$28.20**



**\$81.50**



## DUCK SEASON



Duck Feed available

- \*Pea Hulls
- \*Barley
- \*Peas



## Topflite Wild Bird Cake

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While Stocks last



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### How to plant Garlic

1. Traditional planting time is around the shortest day. Delayed planting time results in more uniform bulbs due to settled weather.  
According to the moon calendar—  
19th to 26 May is a good time, and again with the next full moon in June.
2. Use seed garlic (instore at Kiwi Seed) as this is more likely to grow successfully. Garlic on supermarket shelves might not strike due to temperature treatments.
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, incorporate fertiliser or good amount of compost couple weeks prior planting).
4. Don't break the cloves of the bulbs until the day of planting and soak cloves for 20 minutes in water before planting, this is to prevent dehydration of cloves in the soil. Plant big healthy looking cloves only, which is more likely to grow bigger bulbs to harvest.  
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 is great as mulch on top.
5. Don't let the ground get too dry during spring but stop watering from mid December. The top will feed the bottom as the plant shuts down and matures.
6. Lift Garlic when the tops start to die down.
7. Hang up straight away in a dry spot with moderate temperature to keep skins intact, this will improve storage.



### How to plant Shallots

- Shallots are usually planted with garlic on the shortest day which is the 21st of June.
- Shallots are best planted in a warm sunny spot in the garden or large pot.
- Shallots like a free draining soil that is rich in organic matter. To improve the organic content in your soil, break up the soil and add compost and  
Sheep Pellets then mix together well.
- Begin with breaking up the bulbs into small cloves. Place the cloves into the soil (at least 5cm below the ground) leaving the top half of the bulb above the ground with the sprout facing upwards. Leave around 15-20cm spacing between your bulbs so they have space to grow.  
Once planted, shoots will appear after a month or so. Each bulb produces about 6 to 12 bulbs around it.
- Shallots require adequate watering—not too much though, keep soil moist but not wet.
- Liquid feed about every 3-4 weeks with a good liquid fertilizer. Stop feeding one month before harvest.
- Harvesting is on the longest day of the year (21 December) or as soon as bulbs are big enough. Let the leaves wither back to the neck of the bulb, then pull the bulbs out gently. Dry in the sun or inside on newspaper, in the same way as garlic. Or braid the dried leaves into a rope and hang them in a warm dry place to dry.



### Autumn Horse Care

Now that your grass may have started to grow after the long dry period, remember that the lush new shoots of grass are nutritionally out of balance. The shoots can be low in sodium, with very high potassium and nitrates. Now is a good time to supplement with salt, magnesium and calcium. It is also a good idea to continue feeding a fibre source such chaff, Fibre Pro or TrueFibre so horses are not ingesting too much of the new grass. Keep an eye out for behavioural changes that can be caused by mineral imbalances.  
Feed a Toxin Binder to protect against myco-toxins.



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**Thank you from all at Kiwi Seed.**