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NEWSLETTER

January 2020

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR



Welcome 2020, the year of the metal rat.

Rats are something a seed merchant doesn't like at all, as you can imagine. But after reading the Chinese horoscope, it doesn't sound negative at all.

According to the Chinese horoscope, the Lunar new Year starts on January 25th, 2020 and ends on February 11th, 2021. The Rat is the first sign from the animal cycle of the Chinese Astrology and for this reason 2020 is considered a year of new beginnings and renewals. New opportunities for finding true love and earning more money, founding and evolving. 2020 is going to be successful but be aware careful planning is still required!

As per tradition you should include food in your New Year's menu, what the rat likes to eat, which means all kinds of nuts, seeds and cheese. You should also wear the most precious clothing and jewelry during the party, because the rat loves opulence.



Kiwi Seed stock **sunblock powder**, made of natural minerals, which can be applied to their face, legs and around nostrils.

Rock Salt is the mineral form of sodium chloride (NaCl). The mineral is typically colourless or white, but may also be light blue, dark blue, purple, pink, red, orange, yellow or gray depending on the amount and type of impurities. Along with sodium, rock salt contains many other minerals including, calcium, zinc, iron, magnesium, potassium, copper and several other trace minerals



Animals require more salt during hot weather together with clean water
Rock Salt is available all year round at Kiwi Seed per kg or 25 kg bag



Yates Health Tonic Trace Element Chelate is an easy to use liquid trace element mix. Recommended as a foliar application, this delivers nutrients directly to the deficient leaves for faster results.

Lots of other Yates Products also available in store

SUMMER TIME FISHING TIME

Grab a small bag of Burley from Kiwi Seed before you head out to sea.



Water restrictions in place during the summer months and crops are struggling to survive?

Consequence is, cost for food will increase.

Plenty of this going on world wide already and more forecasted.

Why not use the summer months to set up your rainwater collection system and start your journey towards self sufficiency.

Storing and collecting rainwater when available is a great way to ensure you can grow your own veggies and keep cost for food down. But there seems to be more to rainwater. Why is it that we can turn on the irrigation in the garden if we are lucky enough to have this option and veggies and co grow ok but as soon as the rain has stopped the plants seem to grow so much quicker in comparison?

There are 4 reasons why that is.

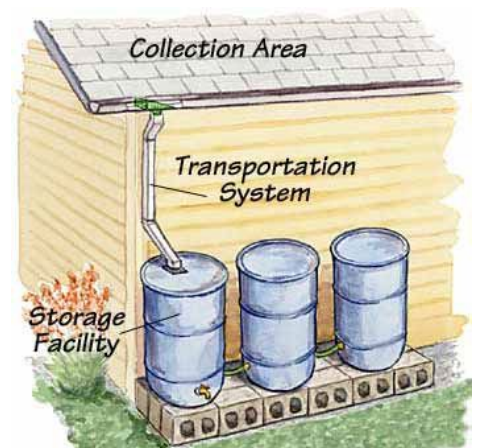
- 1) Rainwater lacks the minerals usually found in irrigation water. The absence of minerals makes the rain-water better at pulling nutrients off of the soil binding sites so plants can use them.
- 2) Rainwater has generally a lower pH level (acidic) which is helpful in areas with alkaline soil.
- 3) Raindrops fall about 20 MPH while irrigation droplets fall at about 5 MPH, because of this raindrops provide better soil penetration.
- 4) Rainwater is saturated with air, so it helps oxygenate and aerate the rootzone much better than irrigation water.

Rainwater is precious therefore should be collected wherever possible and used in the garden. The system doesn't have to be expensive as the picture shows, even 1 drum is a good start.

Yes the penetration and the aeration aspect of rain are hard to copy but there are tools in the shed, which can help promote healthy soil and living conditions.

These tools are called forks, gypsum and cover cropping.

It is possible to improve the aeration and penetration of the soil through using cover crops over the winter months such as radishes, oats, mustards, lupins or sunflowers, linseed, phacelia etc. over summer months. Applying a bit of gypsum from time to time and loosening the soil manually using a fork in tight areas is also possible.

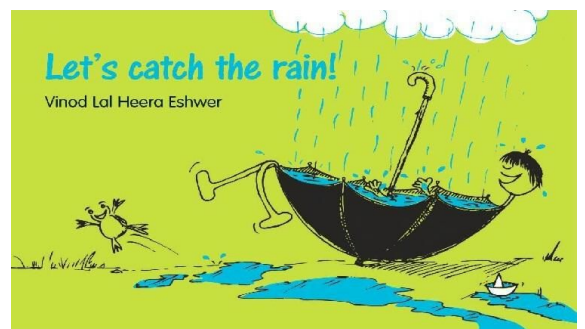


You can apply plenty of fertiliser to increase production but do you need to? The first step in the journey to improve plant performance in your garden starts with soils that can breathe. The second step would be to provide water which can be utilised more efficient by plants.



We often have drums available for sale here at the Kiwi Seed shop.

These can be used for collecting rain water but are also to store grain and animal feed pest free, given they come with a lid.



Spelt Husk,

Suitable for small animal bedding such as guinea pigs. Also works well in nesting boxes for poultry and as garden mulch.

Available from Kiwi Seed.

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Thank you from all at Kiwi Seed.