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## NEWSLETTER

May 2018

Fact is: May has arrived.

The last month of sowing seeds prior to frosts and southerly winds dropping the soil temperatures too low for germination.

Wheat, barley, oats, lupins, peas and broad beans are suitable for sowing in May and are available at our shop. Large seeds can be buried deep (50 mm) in the soil. It's warmer down there.

The Marlborough Express give a good report on daily soil temperatures.

One is taken near the surface and the other deeper down. Note the difference between the two readings.

If the soil is dry, roll the soil after sowing. In your garden, compact the soil around the seed. This will draw what little ground moisture is available from further down and start the germination process.

As winter time is porridge time for a lot of families around the world, we often get asked if our black oats are suitable for making this healthy and nutritious meal. Well, every thing starts with the ripe Oatgrass seed. This needs it's inedible husk removed, before being chopped, steamed and rolled to make fine flakes, which can then be turned into porridge.

Being an animal feed and farm supplier, we sell our oats with the husk on. That way they have the highest level of fibre and lowest level of energy of all grains, making them the safest cereal feed for horses. Please remember to only feed Oats as part of a balanced diet and consult with a specialist if unsure.



Our *Hyland Black Oats* are grown at altitude. They have less virus, fine stems and are highly tillered. Black Oats are ideal as winter feed for livestock, hard feed for horses, as a green manure crop combined with weed and nematode control in rotations with i.e strawberries, carrots, potatoes, onions and bulbs in the garden, vineyards and in other cropping operations.

## Premium Milling Wheat bags

It's cold outside but wheat bags are easy to make yourself and will keep you warm. Self-made wheat bags are a great "get well soon" gift.

You need:

- 100% cotton material (don't use synthetics, as they can be dangerous)
- 3 and 1/2 cup of Premium Milling Wheat (available at Kiwi Seed)
- Sewing machine, ground cloves (optional)

Cut out two pieces of material the same size.

18cm x 28cm is a good size but you can make them bigger or smaller.

1. Place them right side together and sew around leaving a 3 to 4cm gap.
2. Feed material through the gap so the right side of the fabric is now on the outside.
3. Using the funnel, fill with grain and cloves if you are using them.
4. Sew across the gap as neatly as possible, as this seam will show.

When heating this bag for the first time you will need to keep checking the temperature as microwaves vary in heating time. Don't make it too hot especially if it is for a little person. Start with 2 minutes to warm.

Every second or third time warm the wheat bag with a cup of cold water to prevent it from drying out too much.



## Out in the garden

May

Now is the time for lime. Which type of lime and how much depends on your soil pH, the consistency of the soil and the type of plants you want to grow.

Most plants prefer a pH between 5.5 and 6.5. If the pH is too acidic (below 5) or too alkaline (above 7) many plants can't absorb nutrients that are available in the soil. Lime is used to raise ('sweeten') the pH to prevent nutrient deficiency. Also a more neutral pH encourages microbes and worm activity. Worm tilling improves soil texture and the overall health of the soil.

There are soil test kits for home gardeners available, that can give you an idea or a detailed soil analysis can be performed by a professional soil testing laboratory (preferred option). The alternative is a process of trial and error.

In small garden beds you can estimate the amount of lime with the following information.

To raise the pH by 1 point (example from 5.0 to 6.0 ) use following amounts:

On sandy loam soil use 2.5 kg/10 sqm ,

On medium loam soil use 3 kg/10 sqm,

On heavy clay soil use 3.5kg/10 sqm.

### What type of Calcium/ Lime do you need?

**Agricultural/ garden lime** (Calcium carbonate) is ground limestone and the most recommended liming material.

Use **dolomite lime**, which contains calcium carbonate and magnesium, only if your soil test shows a deficiency in Magnesium.

**Gypsum** (calcium sulphate) is commonly used to break compact and clay soils, but doesn't raise the pH.

Lime takes time to break down, lime now for spring planting. For potatoes you need to allow at least 1 year before the soil you have limed is ready for them.

## Kiwi Seed Garden pellets.

### A Gardeners dream and only available at Kiwi Seed

Made with no hidden nasty chemicals but broil, lime and meat and bone.

Designed for easy handling and measuring.

Add them to your compost or directly work them into your garden beds prior to planting winter veggies and flowers. Worms love them and their rapid population increase proves this.

## Boost the immune system naturally

**Garlic seed** for planting in store now.

Also available **Garlic Granules**:

natural antibiotic, anti fungal and anti parasitic properties.

Great preventative herb assisting in recovery from illness.



Gabriele Meermann



**Dunstan Coolfeed 20kg,**  
May special  
**\$33.00 incl GST, per bag**



1st May– 31st May, while stocks lasts.



Samuel Showman

**Duck shooting special** Barley, Ryecorn, Oats, Peas 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](mailto: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.**