

Portstone

GARDEN CENTRE

465 Ferry Road Christchurch
Tel : 03 389 4352 Fax : 03 389 8615
gardening@portstone.co.nz www.portstone.co.nz

Newsletter for August

FRUIT TREES HAVE ARRIVED

And now is a good time to plant them. Fruit trees not only provide you with food but they are also highly ornamental with their seasonal change. Beautiful blossom in spring, then summer shade, autumn fruit and finally winter structure that lets in sunlight! If you haven't room for a large tree, then plant one in a "bonsai bag" and plant that in the ground so it looks like it is planted but it can be moved if necessary. The bag will restrict root growth which will keep the tree small, around 2-3 metres, but it will produce a heavier crop of fruit. Very little pruning is required. These bags are especially good if you are wanting to espalier your trees. Spray your trees and roses now with copper in order to reduce fungal problems in summer.

RAISED BEDS are a good way of growing vegetables. The growing areas are never walked on so don't become compacted. The soil is warmer which speeds growth. For anyone with back problems, the raised bed is easier to reach. But also the raised plots look great and make edible gardens more ornamental. Come and have a look at our new wooden slot together beds. They are so easy to assemble and we have various mixes and composts that you can use to fill them, or we can come and assemble it for you. They come in two sizes – 1x1 metre or 2x1 metre, or can be custom made.

A "Tunnel Cloche" will give you a longer growing season and protect your seedlings from frost, cold drying wind and birds. Our Haxnicks Tunnels are covered with polythene, fleece or micromesh. They are quick and easy to use.

If you sowed a green manure in the autumn, now is the time to dig it. Sow broad beans seeds or plant seedlings now. Also time to sprout potatoes and get them ready for planting soon.

We have a range of varieties in 1kg or 3kg bags, but best of all, we sell single potatoes so you can have just 2-3 in a pot or try a few of different varieties.

STRAWBERRIES make a wonderful ground cover in the ornamental garden in sun or part shade and smother out most weeds. Try growing them in our Hanicks Patio Planters or Strawberry barrel or in a hanging basket. These options keep the ripening fruit off the damp soil which rots the berry, and also stops the birds getting the fruit before you. Which ever option you choose, fill it with **Tui Strawberry Mix**. We have three varieties of strawberries this year that are all day neutral, meaning they will fruit over a much longer period.

The new seasons **deciduous trees and shrubs are instore now**. We have some lovely magnolias, dogwoods, wintersweet, viburnums, hydrangeas, maples and of course, MopTops.

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