

# Portstone

## GARDEN CENTRE

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# J U L Y

In the middle of winter, wouldn't it be nice to have a **TUNNEL HOUSE** to potter in when the weather is wet. There a number of jobs you can do now in the shelter of a tunnel house; re-pot indoor plants, sow seeds for spring planting, plant up hanging baskets so they're in full flower when spring starts. Frost tender plants can be sheltered in the tunnel house, and of course, you can grow winter green and lettuces quicker inside than out. So come and look at our display model and talk to us about the various size tunnel houses that we have available.

**FRUIT TREES** and **ROSES** are the big topic in garden centres at this time of year. They give us all something to focus on in the middle of winter. We have a wide range of fruit trees , many of them on dwarf rootstock which keeps the tree small and suitable for the home garden. **BLUSH BABE** Apple is a delightful little mop head tree growing to just 2 metres tall, but produces full sized, delicious crispy red apples. It has good disease resistance and little or no pruning is required.

**POTTED COLOUR** is an inexpensive and easy way to brighten up your garden or outdoor pots. Polys, pansies, violas and primulas are the main ones, but there are some other lovely ones too, like fragrant stock. Feed them with dried blood to keep them flowering.

**ROSES** can be pruned now. Always use clean, sharp secateurs, loppers and pruning saw. Wear a pair of blue Showa pruning gloves to protect your hands. Cut out thin, weak growth. Cut the good stems to all the same length. Spray Conqueror oil on roses and fruit trees after pruning to seal the cuts from disease entering. Then later spray with copper which will reduce fungal problems when the warm weather comes. Spray copper again just before bud burst. **MEMORIAL DAY** is a new release from Matthews Roses. It's an unusual orchid pink hybrid tea with enormous old-fashioned full flowers saturated with super-strong classic old rose fragrance. Long, low-thorned stems make it good for picking. When planting a new rose, it is a good idea to mix compost and slow release fertilizer in with the soil to give the plant a good start.

**STRAWBERRIES** are in store now. They're such a versatile crop. They're great for children to grow, easy and yummy to eat; they're decorative in hanging baskets and the birds don't get them; plus they make a good ground cover plant where you need something low that will suppress weeds. Feed them well with Mycorrcin.

Seed **POTATOES** can be places in trays for sprouting in a shady, dry spot until they sprout strong, healthy growth at least 1cm long. Then they are ready to plant, but bear in mind the tops when they come through are very frost tender.

Keep Warm and Dry!