

# 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 November

### EDIBLE GARDEN

Show weekend is traditionally the time to plant your frost tender **vegetables** if you haven't already done so. Tomato time; try our Heirloom varieties for fun and good old fashioned flavour, or Big Beef for grilling, Sweet 100 cherry tomato for **salads**, or MoneyMaker for a medium size good all rounder. Stake each plant well and remove the side laterals as it grows to promote good upright growth and encourage fruiting. A liquid fertilizer added when you water, will keep the plants healthy and growing well. Tom-a-rite is a good one. Consistent watering is the key - not too wet, not too dry.

Plant also **cucumbers**, pumpkins, **courgettes**, eggplants and basil. Protect your young plants from the cold nights and drying winds with one of our cosy cloches, only \$1.99 each. It gives them the best start.

Netting keeps rust fly off carrots and parsnips. Leave it on until early - mid December. Alternatively, sprinkle Neem granules or Soil Insect Killer to prevent the bugs eating your crop.

Have you thought about planting a gooseberry or currant bush, **raspberries** or **boysenberries**, **passionfruit** or tamarillo. They don't take up much room and can all be grown in the ornamental garden.

### FRUIT TREES

Thinning the small fruit off can be started now. Reducing the number of fruit on the **trees** will ensure better quality, larger fruit. Trimming large, leafy and non-productive branches out of the trees will allow sun into the centre also ensuring a better, sweeter crop. Feed the **trees**, then mulch over the roots before summer starts. Spray with **copper** to help prevent fungal problems.

### FLOWER GARDEN

Put some colour back in your garden with perennials. You don't have to keep planting new ones each year, so they save you time and money! Some are winter dormant but many are not and most flower all season long. Plant in threes, fives or more for a block of colour.

**Hostas** and Ligularia are beautiful in shady areas with their big bold leaves, then mix with **ferns** for a contrast of form. Add a gnome or two to hide in the foliage. We have a new range of English Dragonstone statues including ornate urns, griffins, gargoyles, little animals, birdbaths etc. and of course, gnomes.

### RHODODENDRONS

Many of our rhododendrons are in full flower now making it easy for you to choose some to suit the colour scheme in your garden. Mulch the **rhodos** well, as the roots are close to the surface and can dry out easily over summer, causing unsightly sunburn. Feed with an acid fertilizer, blended specially for **rhodos**, camellias, azaleas and **magnolias**. Dead-head as soon as flowering has finished. Prune at the same time if required.

### SOLUTION OF THE MONTH

Q. Is there an organic weedkiller that is fast acting and non-selective?

A. Yes. **Greenscape** weedkiller is made from coconut oil and although it doesn't reach the roots, it is completely organic and will fry those weeds in one sunny day! Keep re-applying for maximum benefit.

Join our Portstone Garden Club to receive monthly newsletters, exclusive offers and competitions.