

Portstone

GARDEN CENTRE

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Newsletter for October

EDIBLE GARDEN

Its time to start planting the vegetable garden. We have a wide range of seedlings; brassicas, lettuces, beans and **beets**, along with some good combo packs so you don't have to have six of one thing. All will take off now in the spring warmth. Or you can sow seeds which is particularly good for root vegetables like **carrots**, **beetroot**, parsnips etc. But first make sure you have hoed the soil to a fine texture to depth you expect your vegetable to grow to. Kings Seeds have an extensive range of seeds that aren't easily available elsewhere, so you can try all sorts of unusual vegetables and herbs.

If we haven't got the seeds in stock that you want, then we will get them for you in about a week. Slugs and snails are becoming a problem again and can eat your seedlings overnight. To stop them, sprinkle snail pellets over the soil. Quash is pet safe.

Tomatoes, **courgettes**, cucumbers and **peppers** can be planted now in the tunnel house or planted into bigger pots, kept in a warm spot until the end of October, then planted out when the nights are warmer. We have lots of heirloom tomatoes this year for you to try. Feed your plants with "**Tomato Food** and **Neem Granules**". The neem will reduce the pests and diseases.

FLOWER GARDEN

Roses need feeding now as they are making rapid growth. Burnetts Rose slow release fertilizer is a good one. Spray them with Ocean Organics or Perfection to protect them from pests and diseases. Both products are organic, bee friendly and safe to use. Planting standard **roses** instead of bush, allows more room for underplanting with other things such as Heucheras.

They come in a number of different colours to match nicely with any rose. We have plenty of beautiful, healthy standards to choose from.

The spring bedding **flowers** are coming in now, petunias, lobelias, impatiens, also the wonderful range of **Colourwave** petunias, great for hanging baskets. One plant will smother a basket in flowers all summer. Fuschias also make a colourful display in a basket, or add colour to a native shrub planting.

LAWNS and HEDGES

Feed your lawn now with Yates Dynamic Lawn Lifter for an organic option, or Scotts Slow Release for a convenient option. Sow new lawns now, as the soil temperature rises. Try Super Strike seed for a faster result. Dead grass builds up over time and creates a "thatch" that inhibits new growth, so every two or three years you need to scarify the lawn. This rakes out the thatch which allows the new grass to flourish. We have a motorized scarifier for hire that is as easy to use as mowing the lawn. Booking isn't essential but advisable at weekends.

SHRUB OF THE MONTH

Anopterus glandulosus (Tasmanian Laurel). A rare shrub growing to about 2 to 2.5m. The glossy dark green leaves are very leathery and the pure white cup-shaped flowers appear in spring. It likes a sheltered position in moist soil. An ornamental option for narrow areas.

SUPER GOLD CARD holders receive 15% off trees and shrubs and 10% off all other products (except specials)

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