

Portstone

GARDEN CENTRE

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O c t o b e r

VEGETABLE PLOT

By now you have probably got your vegetable plot, be it garden or raised bed, prepared and ready for planting. If not, give it a good hoeing, apply some blood and bone, a little lime, a good layer of sheep pellets, then cover with peastraw. Voila, ready to go! Here at Portstone, we have all the growing accessories you need. Grow tunnels 3 metres long covered with your choice of either **1) Fine Insect Mesh**: protects against cabbage white butterfly, pea moth and carrot fly; deters cats and rabbits, and shelters plants from heavy rain, hail, late frost and even sun scorch **2) Polythene**: creates a warm and humid environment to give your seedlings a head start, reduces moisture loss from wind evaporation. **3) Netting**: to keep off the birds, and fine enough to keep out other pests too. All tunnels are easily accessed along the sides.

To support your plants, we have either the multi spiral support spring construction that stretches to whatever height you need, or the maypole support with decorative finial, ideal for runner beans, cucumbers etc.

Grow an upside down tomato in one of our hanging planter bags. Fun for the children to try. Also suitable for strawberries, peppers, other vegetables or to create a hanging mass of flowers. So come in now and buy your plants, have fun in the garden and enjoy summer meals picked fresh and healthy.

FLOWERS

By mid spring so many plants are flowering it is hard to decide what to choose.

Lavenders are a versatile and popular choice. They cope well with the hot and dry spots, they are beautiful and fragrant, are good for short hedges, attracts bees to your garden, are useful for sleep pillows, pot pouris, and are edible. There are several varieties to choose from, but all are lovely.

PETUNIA "Black Velvet" one of the very few black flowers, is an exciting new release this year. As flower petals don't make black pigment, the colour is created by breeding together the natural red and blue pigments.

Plant one in a pot with a white one and let the two entwine creating a wonderful display of black & white. There are a number of other colour petunias of course, that you can also mix together in the same way, in a pot or hanging basket. SuperCal Petchoas (mini petunias) are also versatile, long flowering plants that are available in two hot new colours for the 2011 summer season: **Cherry and Vanilla Blush**. Clever breeding has erased the sticky foliage of petunias, so the flowers drop right off rather than sticking to the foliage and looking unattractive.

Did you go to the Alpine Show in September? If not, come in and browse through our range of "little treasures", perennials that delight the connoisseur and beginner gardeners alike. Things like long flowering nicotiana, mountain cornflower, baby cranesbill geranium, crimson scabiosa, meconopsis poppies, dowdeswell's delphiniums, trilliums and salvia argentea with big fluffy silver leaves.

LAWNS

The soil will be warm enough now to sow grass seed and repair damage done by liquifaction silt. Try **Tui Superstrike Lawn Seed** for a fast establishing lawn. The unique treatment protects the seed from insects, fungal diseases and bird theft for up to six weeks, plus of course promotes fast germination. Keep the soil moist while the seed is germinating and the grass is young. Evening watering is best. Now is the time to feed established lawns so they are lush and healthy to get them through the dry summer. **Scotts slow release fertiliser** is the easiest to use.

- ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST -