

# Portstone

## GARDEN CENTRE

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

# S e p t e m b e r

It's been a long wet winter and spring is slow in coming this year, but regardless of the weather, the days are getting longer again. Daylight saving will start this month.

Daphnes are in full bloom now and smelling absolutely divine. We have plenty in stock at varying grades and good prices. We have white as well and the ever popular pink, and standards too.

Helebores (winter roses) are flowering well now. White Magic is the best one for picking for the vase but the doubles are truly beautiful. Sternii has a silver veined leaf and Gold Bullion has a lime green leaf, both are good for brightening shady places.

Camellias and Rhododendrons are starting to flower, so now is a good time to choose which ones you want. They make a colourful back drop to a garden.

Camellias make a good informal, evergreen and glossy hedge with the added bonus of flowers.

Rhodos are a versatile lot, ranging in size from under a metre, to four or more metres when mature. They can live for many, many decades, they come in a huge variety of colours, with beautiful shadings and spots, and a few of them are also deliciously fragrant.

For frost free gardens, try growing the wonderful vibrant coloured and waxy flowered Vireya rhodos.

Under-plant your rhodos and camellias with azaleas, kalmias or nandinas and then edge the garden with Heuchera. They are small evergreen plants in a rosette

shape, with wavy edge leaves, ranging in colour from almost black, through the dark reds, to lime greens, silver veined greens and autumn toned peaches and pinks.

While mostly they are grown for their colourful foliage, they do also have tall flower spikes of varying colours.

Buy your potatoes now for chitting (sprouting). As soon as they have good sprouts on them, they are ready to plant out. Remember though, the new growth coming through is frost tender so needs to be protected if we have any late frosts. We have many varieties to choose from and can be bought in 3kg or 1kg bags, or single potatoes if you don't need many.

We have planter bags designed especially for potatoes, making it so easy. Certified seed potatoes grow better crops with greater disease resistance. Feed well with "Potato Fertilizer".

Broad beans need to be in now so you can be eating them before Christmas. If you don't like broad beans, then start planting silverbeet, spinach and lettuces.

All the brassicas (cabbage, cauli, broccoli etc.) can be planted now. Sow carrot and beetroot seeds directly in the soil. Feed your vegetable garden with "Vegetable Fertilizer".

Figs, feijoas, blueberries and avocados are all available now, and are lovely ornamental plants as well as bearing fruit.

**SPECIAL- Daphne's now \$19.99 – Save \$5.00 (valid thru Sept 2010)**  
*Enjoy their beautiful fragrance*