

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

MOVING?

If you are moving to a new home, do you want to take your garden with you?

Your precious plants can be transplanted to a new property, or dug up and "held" in bags or containers until you know where you are going. Even the bigger plants can go too. "Easi Lift" bags are the ideal bag for the big plants. They come in a number of different sizes and have handles for easy lifting. If you can't lift your plants we can come and do it for you.

VEGETABLE GARDENS & STRAWBERRIES

Do you want to grow your own vegetables this year but your garden is damaged with silt or you will have to move sometime to a new property?

Use a raised bed that can be placed anywhere, then moved if you need to. Here at Portstone, our raised beds are wooden, interlocking slats that fit together in minutes, using no nails or fasteners. Then just fill it up with compost and potting mix and you're in business.

Plant strawberries around the edges so the fruit can trail over the side. This prevents the fruit from going mouldy on the damp soil, makes it difficult for birds to get them, and also looks pretty. Feed well with sheep pellets or strawberry fertiliser. We have glazed pots in garden complimentary colours that have lots of pockets round the sides for planting strawberries in. Great for patios and decks.

With spring here now, its time to get all your vegetables planted and seeds sown. If you like swede, grow a few of your own, they are much juicier and sweeter than the dry ones from the supermarket. Same with broad beans, they start to get bitter the longer they are stored, but so yummy when picked fresh plus broad bean plants when finished are a valuable addition to compost.

All the frost tender plants will come into store this month; tomatoes, peppers, courgettes, cucumbers etc. Keep them in a warm, sheltered place, then plant them out at the end of the frosts! Plant seed potatoes as soon as they have sprouts 1cm or longer.

LETS GET PLANTING

Time to plant summer flowering annuals like **Lobelia** for baskets, **Impatiens** for shade, **Petunias** for full sun, **Nasturtiums** for salads, **Alyssum** for fragrance, plus many many more.

Hellebores are one of the stars of the moment, they're flowering beautifully now. Such gorgeous colours and combinations in both single and double flowers. Plant in a shady or sunny position. **White Magic** is the best for picking.

Daphnes too are in full fragrant flower now, and smelling divine. We have white as well as the ever popular pink, and standards too for a more formal look. It is usual for their leaves to go yellow at this time of year, because they are putting all their energy into flowering. Give them a feed with acid fertiliser.

Gladioli corms have arrived in store, along with **Begonia** tubers. Begonias are such bright and flamboyant flowers that cheer up shady areas or look great in hanging baskets. Gladioli are wonderful popping up in the middle of the perennial bed, and are also a good flower for picking.

Stone fruit trees will benefit from being sprayed now, with copper at the first sign of bud movement and then again 10-14 days later.

Now the soil is starting to warm up, feed your entire garden. Use sheep pellets, granular or slow-release fertilisers, or liquid teas. Whatever you choose to use, the plants will be happier and healthier for it.

The new seasons Rhododendrons and Camellias are in store NOW!