



PORTSTONE

Garden • Gifts • Cafe

February Newsletter

Well we may have had rather chilly spring, but my gosh has the temperature dial been turned up or what. Not that there are any complaints at all. But it has been hot, so hot indeed that if you want to garden you have to get up at sparrows fart to escape the claws of the heat, or to wait until after dinner. Either way one cannot live to tell the tale of midday gardening, so far. So all in all we are having a bumper of a summer, and long may it continue. With this heat hurling around us plants are drying out quicker than normal and it is best to water early morning and evening. Deep watering is always best and to keep everything well mulched helps as well. Keep liquid feeding and picking courgettes, cucumbers and beans. It is also the time to start thinking and planting your winter veges as most of these take a long time to mature so getting them in this month means they can get established before the cooler temperatures slow growth down. Seedlings of cabbages, broccoli, kohlrabi, caulis, brussels sprouts and kale, to name a few, can be popped in the ground now. You will need to keep the white butterflies away with a physical barrier like fine netting draped over a frame or hoops. When the weather cools down the pesky butterflies will be all but done and dusted and it will probably also herald the end of a hot headed summer.

Now is the time to prune summer fruiting berries once all the crop has been picked. Prune raspberries by removing old cane and tying up new ones into an upright position. Just remember if you have dual-cropping raspberries, which bear fruit in both summer and autumn, don't prune them now as you will lose your autumn fruit. Just cut them back to ground level in winter. Always cut away growth that is weak and spindly and pull or dig out any suckers. With blackberries and hybrid berries, remove old fruited canes and tie in the new fresh shoots (the new growth should be much more flexible)

With all the abundance of produce this month, including the glut of courgettes/marrows I was thinking that you could send us your favourite courgette recipe and we will put some in our next newsletter. Email your recipe to info@portstone.co.nz

In Store

We still have a special on all our **vege seedlings** (except Weatherfields organics) \$4.50 each or 3 punnets for \$12. We always carry a good selection with plenty of brassicas

Flowering Bedding \$5.99 each for **3 for \$15** – lots to choose from

Perennials dianthus, dreameria, gazania, helianthemum, penstemom, daisy, gaura, nemesia to name a few

Bonsai - great looking plants, very cool

Alstromeria – such good doers, flower for a long time and keeps for ages in a vase

Geraniums, Pelargomiums and Fuchsias – can't go wrong with these beauties. Look ever so fabulous in pots

Potted Colour – fab looking Zinnias and Blue and White Salvias. All tolerate sun and heat. First of the of the **Spring Bulbs** have arrived – Hyacinth, Freesia, Ranunculus, Daffodils, Iris and Anemone

Fruit and Nut – some very interesting peanut plants, coffee plants, pomegranate, tamarillo, icecream bean, finger lime, cape gooseberries and casana – something for everyone 😊

Herbs There is nothing like fresh herbs straight from the garden onto the plate. We have a great selection from Basil to Thyme at a good price too. **\$5.99 each or 3 for \$15**

The little Market

Dichondra silver and emerald falls, edible banana palms, fatsias with large shiny leaves, gardenia, spiderplants, large grade tree dahlias, gerberas, some cool salvias, bath salts and yellow bird of paradise. And more plants arriving this month. And one hot and bothered dog.

Plant Care

Passionvine Hoppers can cause great damage to a wide variety of edible and non edible plants.

The adult vinehoppers are small slightly moth-like brown insects with transparent wings, they are often seen in a queue like line on the stems of plants. Their young are wingless and have fluffy tails. Both adults and their young suck sap from plants and then excrete honeydew, which can make a sooty mould growing on the leaves.

How do you get rid of vinehoppers?

We have two brands of products;

Grosafe – use the **Enspray 99** on your edibles – use **Groventive** on your non-edibles (plus add **Enspray 99**)

Yates – use on all plants, **Mavrik** or **Success Ultra**. Both have a 3-7 day with holding period on edibles.

Treat at the earliest sign of infestation. Prune off any leaves or stems infested with eggs. Wash off any parts of the plant cover in honeydew by hosing with water.

Giftware

New **tins** designed by England's Emma Bridgewater – Pretty florals, London theme, bright colourful storage ideas

We have **Venus flytrap plants** available again. Be quick as these sell quickly.

Love your Garden

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