

Tis time to sit back and enjoy your garden and look forward to a brand new year, and also to contemplate, plan and relax. Even go on a holiday, swim, sit in the shade and read a book. Take the children tramping, walk the dog, eat good food. Go fishing, water-skiing, kite flying, jump out of an aeroplane (with a parachute...) gosh its endless!

But whatever you choose to do you must water your garden, as we are now in the hottest time of the year and remember that deep watering is the best. It also means that you don't have to water as often. It is also a good chance to spot and deal with any signs of disease or pest problems as well as keep on top of crops that produce best when picked regularly, like beans, cucumbers and courgettes. Do not be fooled by 10 minutes squally shower and think that it will be enough to water your garden. You need proper heavy steady downpour that continues for more than 2 hours to do the job.

You can still plant out more courgettes, cucumbers and dwarf bean seedlings.

Remember your tomatoes need regular watering if you want to avoid problems later on. Drought stress Tomatoes won't fruit and irregular watering can cause blossom end rot and prematurely splitting fruit. It is a good idea to liquid feed your plants fortnightly.

Here's a recipe you can make with a glut of courgettes;

### **Chocolate Courgette Muffins**

Combine 1<sup>1/3</sup> cup of plain or gluten free flour, 2 tsp baking powder, 1 tsp cinnamon, pinch of salt. In a second bowl, whisk together ½ cup olive oil or melted butter, 3 eggs, 1/3 cup sugar and ½ cup natural yoghurt. Add the wet mixture to the dry ingredients along with 250g (about 2 cups) grated courgette and 80g chopped dark chocolate.

Fold the batter until just combined. Spoon into 12 lined muffin tray holes. Bake for about 20mins until a skewer comes out clean. Makes 12 medium muffins.

### **In Store**

**Geranium, Pelargoniums, and Fuchsias** in large grade looking very colourful

**Hydrangea** and **Alstroemeria** looking good

Large grade **Coleus**, very colourful

**Lilies** white scented Pacific Ocean lilies potted up. Will flower soon, stunning.

**Salvia and Gaura** go very well together

Lots of **Perennials** and summer **perennial Petunias**

**Just got in some new Bonsai** - great gifts

Plenty of **Citrus** and **Berries** for that edible gardens

Lots of **Herbs** and many **vege seedlings**

Still time to pop in **Cucumbers** and **Courgettes**

## The little Market

Sunflowers, non-stop Begonias, Gardenia, Thyme, Dichondra, dwarf Arum Lilies, Yellow Bird of Paradise, Astrantria, Tree Dahlia (white), Aconitum. Rhodehypoxis, tall white Phlox, Gypsophlia, Spider Plants, Salvia, Astilble and Lavender scented bath salts. And one sleeping dog.

## Plant Care

### In the orchard

Prune cherry and plum trees once they finish fruiting

Place nets over any crop where birds are threating

Your feijoas will be flowering so keep up the water

### In the flower garden

You will be enjoying all the flowers in your garden beds, it is nice to be able to bring these indoors. The key is to pick first thing in the morning, before it gets too hot. Fill vases to the brim and remove any leaves that will be submerged in water.

If you notice a white fungal on the leaves of your fruit trees, Roses, Hydrangeas, or Tomatoes, it could be powdery mildew.

The white, powdery fungal can grow on the top and bottom of leaves, the stems, petals and buds. It discolours the leaves and cause them to curl.

Normally we would see this during Autumn but because we are having unsettled weather we are experiencing it now.

We can recommend 3 products;

**Grosafe – Enspray 99**

**Kiwicare – Organic Super Sulphur**

**Yates – Fungus Fighter**

Have slugs and snails been munching on your seedlings and plants?

We have several products to help. We recommend **Tui Quash Slug & Snail stoppa**. It is not a poison but is deadly to slugs and snails.

It has a low hazard bran-based formula that does not harm, pets, birds and wildlife.

The pellets have iron chelate in them that help promote healthy plants.

It can be used in gardens and pots.

Always check the withholding period on your edibles after using products

## Love your Garden

