

May has arrived announcing that winter is coming, ready or not. Jack Frost has already taken a few steps, just to warn us what may come. So it is time to move frost tender plants undercover if you are lucky enough to grow them in pots. That includes all citrus plants. If not in pots that you can move, you need to start covering sensitive plants with frost cloth. Citrus in the ground will also stop taking up nutrients when the ground cools down, however a bit of liquid feeding every now and then doesn't hurt.

I grow all my brassicas under frost cloth, to stave off the pesky pukekos, and honestly they have grown like nobody's business, all warm and cosy. So if you are planting winter veges I recommend growing under frost cloth as it keeps the ground warmer, mulch with pea straw to keep the weeds down, it really makes a difference. Pea straw is great for closing down garden beds that are not planted for winter.

Then there are the feijoas. I have just made the most delicious Feijoa Kasundi from a recipe in the NZ Gardener that I came across. This Indian relish is really worth making;



Feijoa Kasundi (relish)

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 tsp brown mustard seeds
- 2 tsp cumin seeds
- 2 tsp tumeric powder
- 1/2 - 1 tsp chilli flakes or one small chilli finely chopped
- 6 cm fresh ginger root
- 4 cloves garlic finely chopped
- 5 cups scooped feijoa, fresh, roughly chopped
- 1/3 cup malt vinegar
- 3 Tlbs brown sugar
- 1 tsp salt

Heat oil in pan, once hot add mustard seeds, cumin seeds, tumeric and chilli. Toast for 1 minute, stir with wooden spoon. Add ginger and garlic, stir for another minute. Add feijoas, vinegar, sugar and salt. Stir well. Bring to simmer, and cook for 1 hour, leaving the lid off. Stir regularly. Pour into sterilised jars. Will keep for 6 months or once open 1 month in fridge. Makes 3 x 250g jars

In Store

We have a good selection of vege seedlings all ready to be planted out at a fantastic prices of **\$2.99 a punnet**.

Also plenty of **winter flowering punnets** also at **\$2.99** – Fabulous winter savings at half price.

Garlic is here ready to be planted out now or next month.

Plenty of **herbs** for that nice freshness in your cooking.

Great selection of **Citrus**. Looking ready for some action.

Bulbs – still a good selection of spring bulbs

Rose list 2023 is out for those who wish to place an order.

Strawberry plants have arrived. Now is the time to revamp your strawberry patch.

The little Market

So, The little Market is going up the ladder a tad. We now have some Epsom lavender relaxing bath salts and Epsom Rosemary Foot Bath Salts, perfect for weary feet.

Also, the big news is that the little dog has now got a real dog big sister named Juniper, cute as a button.

Also, there is Rosemary, purple Thyme and Salvia. Small grade Lemons, Primulas, Rubber plants and bits and pieces.

Autumn Pruning

Autumn is a busy season in the pruning calendar, the perfect time to remove old growth, cut back hedges, and tidy up shrubs.

Nectarines, Peaches, Apricots and Plums – we recommend pruning stone fruit trees in late summer after fruiting has finished. However, it can be done in early-mid Autumn if necessary. If you do prune in Autumn protect cut wounds with a water based paint or pruning paste (that we stock) to seal the wound and prevent disease entering.

These fruits don't need pruning every season and it's important NOT to prune in winter as it can spread the spores of silver leaf which stone fruit is prone to.

Cherries and Blueberries do not require a lot of pruning, other than to shape and remove dead or diseased wood. Both fruit on the same wood for years.

The best time to prune is after fruit appears in summer or autumn, as some fruits produce in both seasons eg Blueberries and Raspberries

How to Prune

Research your tree variety and the best growing shape for fruit trees;

Open vase, Central Leader, Trellis, Fan, Espalier or Bush

Prune on a dry day, to limit the spread of fungal spores and diseases. Use sharp secateurs to make clean cuts on an angle above the bud or branch. Prune lightly rather than excessively, cuts should always be on a 45 degree sloping angle so water doesn't pool and allow fungal disease to enter the wound. When removing entire shoots cut close to the main branch, rather than leaving a stub.

Remove all clipping and prunings and dispose of dead and diseased material.

Remember our fruit trees start coming in, in July so put your name down so you don't miss out. As we sold out last year.

Happy Pruning.

Dragonstone Antiqued Ornamental Stoneware – New shipment arrived

The stunning collection from the UK contains everything from classic urns, pots & statuary to stone benches, birdbaths, plaques, the famous animals sculptures and specially commissioned novelty items.

With such a variety of ornaments we are sure you will find pieces to suit your taste.

The midi collection is extra cute, with its small gremlins, gargoyles and variety of animals they are an excellent present at only \$19.99.

Indoor area

Christmas Lily bulbs have arrived - Now is the time to plant

We are selling the traditional Regale Christmas Lily for **\$3.99/bulb**



There is also a selection of Oriental Bulbs, Redford, Bridal Showers, Sorbonne, Con C Dor and Tsjaikovski Lily. Packs of **3 for \$14.99**

Flower and Herb Dryer

A fun and attractive way to present your herbs or flowers. All you have to do is tie herbs or flowers together and hang them to dry upside down on this dryer.

After drying the herbs can be used in the kitchen and the flowers can be made into bouquets.

New range of **coloured pots** for indoor or outdoor have arrived. There are three colour options, white, mustard yellow or turquoise green.

The pots are a light weight cement so are easy to pick up and move around.

At the moment we have them at 50% off retail price.

From \$9.00

Sizes from 17cm high x 17cm wide x 31cm high x 35cm wide.



Our newsletters contributors are Bjorg, Linnie & Leigh

Bjorg can be located in the undercover area looking after bedding/veges, citrus and

The little Market.

Linnie is our shrub and tree expert so she is outside a lot.

Leigh can be found within the shop.

Come say hi, we are here to help.

Love your Garden

465 Ferry Road – 03 389 4352 portstone.co.nz

