

Another year bites the dust...well almost. And yet another summer pops up, I suppose we are still in the throngs of late Spring if the truth be told, so plenty to look forward to.

We are literary bursting at the seams, so many, many plants.

So the weather will, and is still warming up and with it the soil temperature will also rise, which is good news all around and about the middle of the month you should be able to plant out all things, small and tall. It is however always wise to harden off the most tender of plants, like cucumbers, courgettes, capsicums, pumpkins, and tomatoes to name a few.

You still have time to weed and feed your garden beds and get them ready for summer planting. Mix in some sheep pellets, seaweed granules, even a little lime and then mulch well with pea straw cause alas the news on the street is that we are in for a hot windy summer, so mulching is essential for keeping in the moisture. But also remember that more fertiliser doesn't mean healthier plants, overfeeding can encourage leaf growth at the expense of the fruit and flower. Bushy leafy foliage needs more water. So what we want is a consistent level of moisture, cause without that, lettuces will taste bitter, beans stop producing pods and tomatoes, eggplants and courgettes are susceptible to blossom rot (a calcium deficiency exacerbated by function in water flow). A good deep soak once a week does the world of good, whereas a daily light shower only serves to encourage shallow rooting, making plants susceptible to drought stress. Easy aye!

I think it is just good to be realistic about how much you really need and plant accordingly, both what you will actually eat and what you can grow.

### **In Store - Ready to be planted**

**Bedding;** Alyssum, Arabis, Bacopa, Armeria, Cosmos, Dicentra, Gazania, Geraniums, Gypsophila, Impatiens, Lavender, Lobelia, Osteospermums, Pansies, Petunia, Marigold, Lupins, Salvia, Statice, Stock, Sweet peas, Salvia, Verbena, Zinnia. Something for everyone

**Veges;** Basil, Beans, beetroot, cabbage, celery, corn, cauli, lettuces, combos, carrots, leeks, kohlrabi, onions, rocket, silver beet, spring onions and more.

**Capsicums and Chillies** great selection. Now's the time to plant out.

**Tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes, pumpkins, eggplant, passionfruit and tamarillo**

**Berries galore, Feijoas, Figs and Olive Trees...it's all here**

**Citrus** Oranges, Lemons and Limes will appreciate a dose of citrus friendly fertiliser this month while they are flowering and setting fruit. They'll need feeding every six weeks until mid-Autumn. You can also liquid feed once or twice a month. Keep up the watering and spray with **Grosafe EnSpray 99** (when you liquid feed) and things should turn out wonderfully.

We have a huge range of Citrus in store, from lemons to limes, oranges, grapefruit, mandarins and tangelos.

Get your **herbs** in this summer. Choose a sunny well drained spot and you will be well rewarded.

Don't forget our organic vege seedling range, they get restocked every Thursday. Lots of yum yums.

We have so many new and gorgeous summer **perennial petunias** looking stunning. These make a very easy solution for any basket or a pot, they will bloom all summer. A beautiful thing.

Lots of perennials that are all coming of age and looking very pretty.

And let's not forget **Lysimachia** a stunning trailing plant that looks like rivers of gold when it cascades over the sides of hanging baskets, pots or rockeries, or as a groundcover – what's not to like.

And then there are the Roses- OMG! Looking at their very best in bud and blooms. Absolutely stunning, and still plenty to choose from. Really worth taking a look.

## The little Market

Literally bursting with summer at its seams

Tall white phlox, Achillea, Acanthus Mollis, Salvia, Baby tears, Japanese anemone, Bird of paradise, Trilliums, Zinnias, Rudbeckia, Clematis, Hollyhock ebony, Tomatoes, Pulsatilla, Astilbe, Scented Geraniums, Dwarf Arum Lilies, Pseudopanax and more, so much I can't find the dog.

## Shade Lovers

The Fernery has been extended due to the popularity of the range of shade loving plants we offer. There are many interesting ferns plus several large punga to give instant structure to your garden. Come take a wander.



## Indoor area

Do you have pests such as aphids, mealy bugs, thrips or mites attacking your garden?

Thrips are extremely active this time of year, they feed in large groups with numbers increasing as temperatures warm up.

They leap or fly away when disturbed. They attack fruit trees, hedging, roses, pot plants, flowers especially gladioli and roses, and many garden vegetables.

Thrips damage plants by sucking their juices and scraping at fruits, flowers and leaves. Plant leaves may turn pale, splotchy and silvery, then die. Injured plants are twisted, discoloured and scarred.

There are two products available from Grosafe to help your plants look healthy again.

### **Groventive Garden** and **Enspray 99**.

**Groventive** is a two-way, systemic insecticide which can be used to control both sucking and chewing. Controls pests such as aphids, mealy bugs, thrips, mites and more.

Being systemic, it means that once applied, it is absorbed by the plant and distributed throughout its tissue reaching every part of the plant. **But** plants **must** be sprayed on both sides of the leaf and the stems to give the best chance of eliminating all pests.

**Enspray 99**, Spraying oil, is an organic insecticide and fungicide for the use on citrus, pip and stone fruit, roses and ornamentals. This product can be used every 3-4 weeks as an organic maintenance or it can be mixed with Groventive to speed up the reduction of the pests.

For best results with both products spray on cloudy windless days at 14-28 day intervals.

Come and talk to us about your spraying requirements.



This month's newsletter contributors are;

**Bjorg** can be located in the undercover area looking after bedding/veges, citrus & The little Market.

**Leigh** can be found within the shop.

**Kate** has a great view from her office upstairs

Come say hi, we are here to help.

## Love your Garden

465 Ferry Road – 03 389 4352 [portstone.co.nz](http://portstone.co.nz)

