

My apologies for the late delivery of this newsletter. With Spring comes my role of "Mum" to any orphan lambs so I get pretty focused on their well-being but we have successfully got Rhonda and Ronaldo to a month old when they were joined last Monday by Iris who was a triplet. Life is sweet for them all enjoying the comfort of a shed at night and the warm sunshine on good days. Oh and of course their bottle of milk throughout the day!

For many the season of Spring is a favourite so welcome in spring and get the growing season off to a great start. It's an exciting time of year to be gardening as many plants are bursting into life. Show your garden some love this month to get everything in shape for the summer. Portstone has an amazing selection of plants for you to choose from, come talk with the team, we are here to help you create a garden you will love.

This is an ideal time for planting flowering shrubs so they can become established before the heat of summer.

Our climbers have arrived and we have the most gorgeous flowering **Clematis** and **Jasmine**, flowering now.

Before planting anything new, prepare the soil by removing weeds and adding compost or manure. When planting, dig a hole that's twice as big as the root ball and be generous with compost in the planting hole.

In Store Now

This is the month when the garden centre bursts with stock

- Tomatoes, Zucchini, Cucumber, Chilies, Pumpkin and Capsicum seedlings
- Vege seedlings: Peas, Broccoli, Beetroot, Cauli, Cabbage, Bok Choi, Rocket, Lettuce, Silverbeet, and Spinach
- The Herb Bed begins to swell with fresh stock weekly
- Flowering Bedding –summer bedding has arrived such as Lobelia, Petunia, Cornflower, Nasturtium. Lavender, Osteospermum, Foxgloves, Geraniums, Pansies, Sweet Pea and Violas
- Bulbs, a few Dahlias left, expecting the Flag Irises and Gladioli bulbs (these have been rumoured to be the latest craze to plant)
- Potted Colour; so much colour, you can't go wrong
- Roses – these are looking spectacular, starting to leaf up beautifully
- Citrus – Healthy lemons, oranges, grapefruit, mandarins and limes

The little Market

We get many positive comments about this space. Customer enjoy finding treasures that are a little different. There are still some Alliums available plus gorgeous woodland plants, Violets, Grape Hyacinths and Trilliums. and Hellebores. We will soon have available "Portstone grown" tomato seedlings, courgettes and flowering annuals.

Hydrangeas - New seasons plants are arriving weekly. Hydrangeas are an ideal choice for mass plantings as they give months of flowers, even when they have finished flowering they still look attractive.

If you haven't already, you need to remove the dead flowerheads, cutting back the stem to the first strong, healthy pair of buds down from the faded bloom. Hydrangeas flower on new growth, so avoid cutting into 'old wood', as this can reduce flowering for the next couple of summers.

Give your lawn some love after a hard winter; repair and reseed any bare patches on your lawn that may have appeared during winter - rake off any leaves and add a layer of lawn compost before sowing. If the weather is dry enough, you may be able to cut your lawn; make sure the blade of your lawnmower is not too low and cut long grass with a strimmer before mowing.

A new shipment of **Pots** has arrived, from large urns to shist balls, terracotta planters to wickers baskets to plant into. Something for every garden style.



The spring range from French Country is displayed in our shop.

We have selected pots, low planters, jugs and vessels in gorgeous moss green, sea blue and the blue and white pattern. These are proving very popular.

Fill your home with flowers - picking blooms from the garden is irresistible during Spring. Vessels of Daffodils and Grape Hyacinths fill the home with bright contrasting colour and large vases filled with architectural branches of blossom, create impact. The spring season should be enjoyed both inside and out.

Enjoy spring... it is a beautiful time of year in the garden and, before you know it, summer has arrived. Make time to take in the beauty of the season – while working in your garden take time to admire your efforts, or simply sit in your garden and listen to the birds.

Love your Garden
Open 7 days – 9am-4.30pm

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

