

Letter to the Editor

Thank you Reon Keenan from Grantlea Downs School for your email regarding pruning stone fruit. Reon suggests:

"NO STONE FRUIT to be pruned in Winter. All STONE FRUIT are to be pruned in summer. Pruning Stone fruit in winter causes plant to be at risk of disease in spring and summer. This then leads to more spraying and chemicals having to be used. Also less fruit on the plant.

This is a common practise that we have all done for years pruning in winter. We may be the only country to do this. All Apples and Pears and trees with pips are to be pruned in winter".

We really appreciate your advice and feedback. Keep the emails and letters rolling in!



Potato Madness

Plant your early summer potatoes now!

Put your seed potatoes out in a warm place to sprout (sometimes called chitting). Standing them up in an egg carton is ideal in the classroom.

When well sprouted, plant your potatoes in a well prepared garden.

Check out the link below for more details:

<http://www.tuigarden.co.nz/howtoguide/potato-growing-guide>



Q: Why do potatoes make good detectives?

A: They keep their eyes peeled!

DIY

DIY Bean Tepee:

Use bamboo stakes, thin tree branches, string (or recycle something similar) to make a tepee. Plant the beans around it and watch it grow!

www.nzgardener.co.nz



Spring is here
Its time to sow
Plant your seeds
Watch them grow!



This is a busy time in the garden - everything can be planted now. Remember; protect late seedlings from any late frosts.

- ✿ Silverbeet
- ✿ Carrot
- ✿ Radish
- ✿ Spinach
- ✿ Salad greens
- ✿ Peas in a sheltered spot
- ✿ Herbs in pots inside

BBQ Kebabs

1

Add some veggies:
capsicum,
courgette, cherry
tomatoes,
cauliflower,
broccoli, celery,
corn on the cob,
mushrooms...

2

Add some fruit:
Apple,
pear, stone
fruits,
pineapple,
kiwifruit...

3

Brush over a glaze for added flavour if you want, such as honey or balsamic vinegar.

4

Grill on a barbeque or fry pan until cooked.



COMPANION PLANT OF THE MONTH



Beans and corn grow well together. Corn likes the nitrogen beans put back into the soil and beans like to climb up the corn. **Pumpkin** likes the shade provided by the corn.

Grow carrots and leeks together. Both have strong scents that drive away each other's pests.

French marigolds exert hormones that repel harmful insects.

Nasturtiums under your fruit trees will attract bees and keep aphids away.

Bees love lavender, fennel, basil, thyme, borage, coriander...



Do you have any successful gardening companions?
Send them for us to print and go in the draw to receive some **garden equipment!**



Have fun in the garden

Encourage children to explore the natural environment through real involvement with their garden. Appreciate colour, texture, beauty and taste.



www.yates.co.nz

www.tuigarden.co.nz

Did you know...

One teaspoon of good soil holds more than one million living things.

Homemade Bug Spray

You will need

- 2 litres of hot water
- 1 teaspoon of soap
- 8 crushed garlic cloves
- 1 tablespoon of ground black pepper
- A bucket
- Some cheesecloth
- A funnel
- A spray bottle

What you need to do

Mix the water, soap, garlic and pepper in the bucket. Let the mixture sit for a few days, then strain it through the cloth into another container. Pour the strained mixture into a spray bottle, using the funnel. Spray your plants whenever you see their leaves have been chewed.

My Garden Diary

Start a gardening journal for the new season. Include all your tips, pictures and stories about your gardening journey – let your imagination run wild!

