



All about Blueberries

The best time to plant blueberries is in the Spring as the plants are in containers and will move into growth as the days and soil become warmer. Blueberries must have an acid soil (ph 6 is ideal) and plenty of water during the growing season (avoid water logging during Winter).

Some cultivars are self fertile although they do crop better if there are others close by. Seek advice as to which cultivars to grow from your local nursery or garden centre as they will usually only stock those that are suitable for their area. In my experience nationwide chain stores do not allow for local conditions that may be different around the country. (I recommend Woodend Nursery as they have the largest selection of fruit trees that I know of).

Thanks to Lynette who posted this question to Michael Coulter



Events coming up at *The Kiosk & Beyond*

Greenthumbs Radio

Monday 10 August 9am

Catch up with CHS President Ray King and Lorraine Campbell on Plains FM96.9. Interesting interviews and great gardening advice.

Q & A at The Kiosk

Winter Hours : every day 10am-3pm

One-on-one gardening advice with volunteers from the CHS and Friends of the Botanic Gardens.

Watercolour Painting

Wednesday 12 & 26 August 10am

Get together with members and explore your hidden painting talent! A casual group who enjoy watercolour painting with inspiration from the Gardens. Held at The Kiosk twice a month. BYO materials. (Tutor Rose attends every fourth Wednesday of the month - \$5).

Living Dirt Display

Weekend 15 & 16 August 10am-3pm

How to garden easy - advice and inspiration from The Just Dirt Trust.
The Kiosk, Free, all welcome

Seed Swap

Saturday 12 - 27 September

Tūranga - Christchurch City Libraries
Time to look over and sort your seeds for the annual seed swap with the Library, more information next month.

Riccarton Horticultural Spring Show

Saturday 12 September 12.30 - 4.30pm
St Peter's Church Hall, Church Corner

Daffodil Circle Championships

Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 September
10am - 3pm at *The Kiosk*

Spring Botanical Expo

Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 September
Lincoln Events Centre, 15 Meijer Drive
Join in to see the National Daffodil Show, the Alpine and Woodland Show and Canterbury Floral Art for the Spring Botanical Expo. Daffodils, alpine treasures and floral design, rare plant sales.
Entry: \$5 (kids free).

Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Events

Our Kauri, Our Heritage

Friday 21 August 10.30am
Joanna Orwin, historian and botanist will speak about scientific aspects of the New Zealand kauri then lead a walk in the gardens.

Challenges of Restoring Dryland

Ecosystems: Mcleans Island a case study
Friday 18 September 10.30am
Nick Head, Senior Ecologist City Council.
\$5 Members, \$10 Non Members
The Kiosk.

All About Gardening AUGUST 2020

Monday 3rd 7pm & Tuesday 4th 9.45am
Grant Matheson - New Crevice Garden



The Christchurch Botanic Gardens have introduced the first "Crevice Garden" into a New Zealand public garden; a joint venture project with the members of the New Zealand Alpine Garden Society. This style of garden was initially perfected in the Czech Republic and has become popular all over the world.

The new garden has stimulated a lot of public interest and admiration. A planting plan is currently being considered with the aims to have it completed by early Spring. Grant Matheson is the Maintenance Officer for the Rock Garden.

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens (just over the footbridge from Armagh St car park).

\$5 members \$10 non-members.
Includes tea, coffee & biscuits

Once you have decided which seeds are best for direct sowing, here are some tips for success:

Prepare your beds. Fertilise soil ahead of time and remove weeds, so that your plants will not be competing with weeds as they grow.

Prepare the soil. Break up clods and till the soil to the correct depth – if you are sowing root crops or crops with a deep taproot, you will need to till to a greater depth, so that the roots can grow straight and true. Ensure the soil is not too dry or too waterlogged. Water if

too dry, add sand or compost if too heavy and wet. Smooth the surface.

What to sow. Select varieties that do well when sown direct. Avoid sowing varieties with very specific growing conditions – they are usually best sown in seed trays in sheltered conditions and planted out at a later date.

When to sow. Check the required growing conditions for the variety you are growing. Does it prefer to grow in cool or warm conditions? Can it survive frosts? Does it need a cold

period to germinate? Are soil temperatures warm enough for germination for this variety? Are daylight hours long enough for the plants to thrive?

How to sow. Usually, seed can be sown at a depth of around twice the diameter of the seed – larger seeds will be sown deeper than tiny seeds. Generally, you then cover the seeds with soil, but some seeds (e.g. lettuce) need light to germinate – those can be sown on the surface and lightly pressed into the soil. Sow into moist soil.

Small seeds. If you are sowing tiny seeds, mix them with some sand to allow you to space the seeds out evenly rather than have them grow in clumps. You can sow vegetable seeds in patches or rows, or broadcast flower seeds across beds for a spread of colour.

Large seeds. Make a long furrow at a depth of around three times the seed circumference. This will help you space the seeds further apart by dribbling them into the furrow and then covering the furrow over. Sow at a closer spacing than you will

Canterbury HERB Society

Rona McNeill (our 'Herb of the Month' contributor), recently received a presentation from the Canterbury HERB Society as appreciation for her 45 plus years service (she has been a long standing CHS member). Rona has been involved in numerous public programmes and workshops and has done much to

promote gardening and in particular, herbs throughout her considerable membership. Congratulations Rona! The August programme follows the current theme of spicy Eastern foods; Raj, a Senegalese man from Sri Lanka, will demonstrate and share his knowledge and love of all things spicy in the kitchen. **Thursday 27 August, 10am & 7pm.** Facebook: @CANHERBSOC



Chrysanthemums

Monday 17 August 7pm

David & Robyn Purcell's Home

The subject of the meeting is preparing for the coming season getting ready for propagation and any problems and how to fix them. All CHS members welcome to come and learn about Chrysanthemums.

Garden Club Reps

AGM (and shared lunch)

Tuesday 4 August 12.15pm

The Kiosk
Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Junior Gardeners

Thursday 20 August 3.45 - 5pm

The Kiosk
New members welcome
(Bring gloves/masks for potting)

Fruit & Vegetables

Wednesday 26 August 6:30pm

AGM & Dinner (bring food to share plus utensils, glasses & plates). Small Microwave available.

Guest Speaker: Michael Coulter on Planting & Espaliering Fruit Trees.

The Kiosk, Botanic Gardens

Floral Design

Wednesday 19 August 2pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
New members welcome.

See the latest arrangements experimenting with massed floral and line.

Online: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsm3HUR3N>

Monthly Tips & Tasks with Michael Coulter

August is a month of transition from the cold of Winter to the more changeable weather of the late Winter and early Spring at the end of the month. I can already see the daffodils budding up and other plants around the garden showing the signs of the coming season.

The pruning of fruit trees, roses, grapes and any other trees should be completed by the end of the month. Winter spray of copper and conquer oil should be done before the buds completely burst into leaf to get the most benefit from

the sprays. As the soil becomes more workable gardens should be cultivated, green crops and compost dug in to prepare the ground for planting or seed sowing in a few weeks time. Some early seeds may be sown indoors so that the seedlings will be ready for planting out in about six weeks time. This month is still a good time for the planting of deciduous fruit trees, citrus and other shrubs.

The end of the month is when I often move plants around the garden as it gives them time to make new roots before they

start their Spring growth and the ground begins to warm.

Broad beans will need to be tied up as they will grow rapidly from now on and rhubarb should have a good fertiliser now to give it a good start to the season.

The lawns will need to have some attention as the grass begins to grow, fertiliser applied, moss treated and some aeration where there has been compaction of very wet areas.

Although we think that Spring is here the reality is that it is only the late Winter and we should

only be getting ready for the real Spring in a months time, when everything in the garden will seem to be needed to be done at the same time - so be prepared!

The new stock of seeds will be coming into the garden centres along with Summer perennials, bulbs and corms. Get in early to get the best choice both of quality and variety.

The weather will always be the factor that determines our success in the garden so it is better to wait until all the conditions are right before planting, sowing or cultivating is started. *Happy Gardening!*

need as you can thin weaker seedlings as the plants grow to give you the correct spacing. Alternatively, you can use a dibber or tool handle to poke individual holes in the garden bed, into which you can sow a couple of seeds.

Label. Mark what you have sown – you may think you will remember what and where you sowed different varieties of seeds, but it is easy to forget – put markers in to remove the human error! If you are sowing

a variety that is new to you, learn what the seedlings will look like (google can help). This will ensure you recognise your seedlings as they germinate and grow and don't mistake them for weeds!

Water. Keep your seeds moist throughout the germination period – don't allow them to dry out and don't over water them. Once germinated, keep an eye on soil moisture. The roots are tiny and they can dry out quickly on sunny and/or

windy days. Be gentle with your watering so you don't wash the seeds or seedlings away.

Plant spacing. You may need to thin seedlings as the plants grow, so that they have enough room and don't become overcrowded and stunted. You can either gently pull the thinnings out, or snip or pinch off the plant if you are trying not to disturb the roots of tiny seedlings nearby. Some vegetable thinnings can then go through to the kitchen as a

tiny treat!

Pests. Know what is likely to be a danger to your seedlings. You can use physical barriers like fine netting, frost cloth or plastic to protect them from hungry birds and stop white butterflies laying their eggs. Do regular checks for slugs and snails so that you don't wake to find that all your precious seedlings have been eaten during the night!

From the President *Ray King*

Thank you all who came along to the Members morning tea, it was good to see so many of you joining us, there was plenty of chatter and swapping of lockdown stories.

Thank heavens we have seen some sun over the last few days, the sodden and muddy ground hasn't been at all pleasant to get around. A few sunny days saw gardeners out starting their pruning and spraying. We even gave our lawn a quick mow taking Michael's advice to keep the mower blade up high.

The Kiosk is back in full swing with lots of activity over the school holidays. We were involved with the school holiday programme for Kidsfest which centred around Matariki this year. The first week of the holidays was wet so we only saw the hardy ones out but by the second week we saw lots of keen children and parents, following the trail around the gardens and writing their wishes on a Matariki star.

Thank you to all the Kiosk volunteers who have returned to help keep the Kiosk open to the public, particularly those volunteers who come along on Saturdays. We really appreciate your efforts!

Ramblers

Tuesday 11 August 9.45am

Hoon Hay, Meet Hoon Hay Park opposite Tankerville Rd

Tuesday 25 August 9.45am

Avon River 2, Meet at the Edmonds Clock Tower, Madras St

No walk if wet. FREE

2020 Programme:

www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers



Ramblers *June/July*

A misty day greeted ten Ramblers on the 23rd of June. Starting from The Kiosk in the Botanic Gardens where nature had created interesting sculptures in the shrubbery the group continued along Armagh St rambling along to Victoria Square. A bleak looking area on a not so nice day in Winter.

A Weeping Willow tree offered the only colour to Victoria Square. Returning along the Avon River / Ōtakaro central city walkways towards Hereford and Cashel Streets, taking in views of the new Convention Centre, rebuilding work and The Strip while passing. Taking a walkway by the West End Carpark we passed from Cashel Street to Hereford Street, then onto Montreal and Worcester Streets returning to the Botanic Gardens for a cuppa at the Ilex Centre.

A better day that started with a crisp frost was experienced for the 14th of July Ramble along the Heathcote River. Again



nature had interesting sculptures with trees showing off their bare limbs. Starting from Fifield Terrace near Ford Road we all crossed over the pedestrian bridge to Riverlaw Terrace and headed west towards St Martins Road across to continue along Riverlaw Terrace to the Wilsons Road bridge where a crossing was made to the opposite side of the river to ramble along Eastern Terrace to Tennyson Street Bridge, to return along the river on Riverlaw Terrace to the Wilsons Road bridge crossing over to the Fifield Terrace side and return to the cars.

Views across the river at gardens along the way were great compared with viewing from the front fence. Also a lot of work has been done along the Heathcote River to stabilise and tidy the banks. Seventeen warmed up at the Opawa Café afterwards.

August sees the Ramblers exploring Hoon Hay and the Avon River. New ramblers welcome! Free

ALL ABOUT GARDENING

Monthly gardening programme for the everyday gardener

Coming up at All About Gardening

SEPTEMBER

Monday 7th 7pm & Tuesday 8th 9.45am

Mark Chandler - Ohinetahi Gardens
Mark will talk about Ohinetahi and the rebuild of the gardens post quake. He will also respond to the CHS Mission statement of "**Connecting people to the art, science and practice of gardening and horticulture**".
Afterwards Dave Adams will give a quick daffodil bulb refresher followed by a mini floral art demonstration with daffodils from Shirley Russ.

OCTOBER

Monday 5th 7pm & Tuesday 6th 9.45am

Cornelia Holten - Korukai Herb Farm
Korukai produce a range of natural herbal products for general health and healing. They grow over 80 medicinal herbs and harvest and process 40 of them to be used for their products. www.korukai.co.nz
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens (over footbridge - Armagh St car park).
Members: \$5 Non-members: \$10
Tea, coffee and biscuits included



We want your Problems!

Have a gritty garden problem you can't solve — or just need some general advice?

Bring your questions to our monthly AAG meeting, post them on **HortTalk** or email Michael directly a day or two before the meeting.

coulтчhrys@xtra.co.nz

[Facebook.com/groups/CHSHortTalk](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CHSHortTalk)

The New Brighton Community Gardens need you!

The NB Community Gardens are looking for new Trust members to help with the governance of our beautiful gardens. If you have a little time for a monthly meeting, usually on a Monday afternoon, and have an interest in gardening, sustainability and/or a variety of governance or financial experience we would like to hear from you. Check us on Facebook or come and visit us (136 Shaw Ave) and let us know if you would like to join in and share ideas with us to help our gardens continue to operate in the community.

Contact: Michele 388 0192



HALF PRICE
available now to December 31

Sign-up Online

chsgardens.co.nz

Garden groups, workshops courses & events

BECOME A MEMBER

Free Wheelchair

Available everyday from The Kiosk donated by the Friends