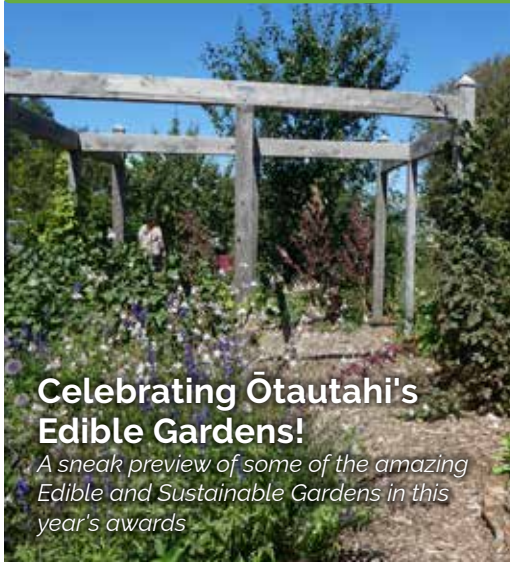




366 6937 [www.chsgardens.co.nz](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz) office@chsgardens.co.nz canterburyhorticulturalsociety



## Celebrating Ōtautahi's Edible Gardens!

A sneak preview of some of the amazing Edible and Sustainable Gardens in this year's awards



## Coming up at The Kiosk

### Bot Tots

**Mondays 10 - 11.30am (term time only)**

Gardening and nature themed activities for preschoolers. Drop-in during school term time (gold coin entry). [Facebook Event](#)

### Green Thumbs Podcast

**Monday 14 March 9am** Plains FM96.9

Author, artist and blogger extraordinaire, Julia Atkinson-Dunn joins us to talk all things art and garden.



### Winter Vegetable Growing

**Thursday 31 March 7pm - 9pm**

Discover a range of easy-to-grow winter crops, different varieties and their suitability for large veggie plots, mixed gardens or containers. However your home garden is designed, you'll go away with a workable plan and seeds to get you started.

**\$40** (\$50 non-members).

[Book online](#)

### Bulbs in Containers

**Thursday 28 April 7-9pm**

In this workshop run by Dave Adams you will learn how to successfully grow bulbs in containers as well as tips for their maintenance.

**\$40** (\$50 non-members)

Includes potted bulbs to take home

[Book online](#)

### Garden Organic

**Tuesdays 7-9pm, 15 March - 19 April and Saturday 2 April 9am - 1pm**

Start your organics journey with national experts in the field from Lincoln University. Learn the principles of organic home gardening with this six week theory and practical course.

**\$260** (\$325 non-members).

[Book online](#)

### Outdoor Propagation

#### Semi-hardwood Propagation

**Thursday 24 March 7pm - 9pm**

Master the art of cuttings and expand your plant collection this autumn.

Semi-hardwood cuttings can be used to propagate a wide range of evergreen shrubs ranging from camellias, rhododendrons and hebes to popular herbs like bay, lavender, rosemary and thyme. **\$40** (\$50 non-members)

[Book online](#)

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM will go ahead in The Kiosk on **Tuesday 29 March 7pm**. We will also have the option for members to attend by Zoom and will email out the meeting invite on the day.

For those attending in person, strict Covid-19 health measures will be in place.

Nominations are being called for President, Vice President and (4-6) Board Members. Nominations and items of general business and any notice of motion must be received at the CHS Office by Tuesday 15 March with confirmation in writing from the nominated member.

Nominations must be signed by two Financial members and any notice of motion must be signed by two Financial/Honorary Life Members.

The Agenda, President's Report, Annual Accounts and Auditor's Report will be available from the CHS Office 7 days prior to and at the meeting.

[www.chsgardens.co.nz/agm](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/agm)



**The Kiosk**  
Canterbury Horticultural Society

Gardening & horticulture questions answered  
[Facebook.com/groups/CHSHortTalk](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CHSHortTalk)

## Mona Vale Guided Walks

**Saturday 5 & 12, 26 March 1.30pm**

Meet at the Rose Garden entrance by the car park. 90 minutes duration. *Free*

## Free Daily Guided Walks

Meet at The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens 1.30pm (walks are approx 45 mins).

**Tue 1** Prince of plants – the noble palm

**Wed 2** Notable Trees

**Thu 3** Our Herbaceous Border

**Fri 4** General Interest Walk (90 mins)

**Sat 5** Leonard Cockayne Garden

**Sun 6** History Walk – Armstrong Lawn

**Mon 7** NZ Gardens – NZ natives

**Tue 8** No scheduled walk

**Wed 9** Curator's House Potager Garden

**Thu 10** General Interest Walk (90 mins)

**Fri 11** NZ Gardens – NZ natives

**Sat 12** Gondwana Collection

**Sun 13** General Interest Walk (90 mins)

**Mon 14** Leonard Cockayne Garden

**Tue 15** NZ Gardens – NZ natives

**Wed 16** Prince of plants – the noble palm

**Thu 17** Gondwana Collection

**Fri 18** Notable Trees

**Sat 19** Leonard Cockayne Garden

**Sun 20** NZ Gardens - NZ natives

**Mon 21** General Interest Walk (90 mins)

**Tue 22** Prince of plants – the noble palm

**Wed 23** Notable Trees

**Thu 24** Gondwana collection

**Fri 25** Our Herbaceous Border

**Sat 26** Biggest, smallest, quirkiest, tallest

**Sun 27** Our Herbaceous Border

**Mon 28** Curator's House Potager Garden

**Tue 29** Plant Hunters – trees & their stories

**Wed 30** NZ Gardens – NZ natives

**Thu 31** Notable Trees

## Spring Talk Series

### Garden Tour

**Sunday 20 March 2pm**

Visit to Frensham Garden, Tai Tapu

**\$15 per person** (add a delicious afternoon tea for \$13).

Contact the Friends to book.

[friendsofthegardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthegardens@gmail.com)

The Christchurch Envirohub is a meta-organisation to provide support for environmental and community groups in the wider Christchurch area.

Christchurch Envirohub partner with Green drinks to host social events and help connect and coordinate other organisations with events. Head to their [website](#) to find out more or give their [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) a follow to keep up to date.

Christchurch Envirohub has just activated the new Riverlution Eco Hub at the Richmond community gardens. This space is free to use by all environmental and community based organisations and is equipped for meetings, events, presentations and workshops or as a general working area. To check it out visit the [website](#).

They have also recently developed a new digital geographical map and directory which enables users to view all the environmental and community-based

## Watercolour Painting

**Wednesday 9 & 23 March 10am**

All welcome, BYO materials

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

## Garden Club Reps

The Kiosk, ChCh Botanic Gardens

**No meeting this month**

## Floral Design

**Wednesday 16 March 2pm**

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

The theme for March focuses on the green colour of plants so we will be making an arrangement with only green plant material. This is a freestyle workshop so a container of your choice and plant material are your choice as long as it is green.

## Chrysanthemum Circle

**Sunday 27 March Midday**

Michael and Marian Browns, Loburn

### Pot-Luck Picnic Lunch

General cultural notes. Car pool if desired.

*If you are a new Member and would like to attend please contact Robyn on*

*Tel: 942 9871*

## Monthly Tips & Tasks

*with Michael Coulter*

February has been a month of record rain fall and below average sunshine hours but the plants have grown and so have the weeds. March is the end of summer and what I call the harvest month as much of the fruit is ready for picking along with the summer vegetables such as the tomatoes and pumpkins.

I haven't noticed many spider mites or thrips around this month but that does not mean that they are not there! Have a close look at the undersides of leaves and treat the plants for them if they are seen, especially on those plants that are prone to them.

The lawns are growing rapidly with the extra moisture but with the warmer temperatures there are signs of fungi infections that may

need to be treated. Cutting the grass a little lower may be helpful by allowing more light to the turf. March is also a good time to spray the lawns for broad leaf weeds and to do any repairs or over sowing to the grass.

The extra rain has caused some of the summer flowers to look a little untidy; to keep them going continue to dead head and even give them a light trim to encourage fresh growth. Dahlias will continue to flower but will need to be treated for mildew as well as having the old flowers removed.

Autumn perennials including asters, chrysanthemums etc. should now be properly staked as they approach their maximum height.

Winter vegetables should be planted and well established before the end of the month and arrival of cooler temperatures. Insect pests are prevalent now, especially

caterpillars and whitefly. Good control now will reduce the numbers over wintering in your garden.

Weeds have grown very fast this month and will be coming into seed so weeding them out now will reduce the seed getting into the soil. Remember, one years seeding is seven years weeding!

This month is one for taking cuttings of plants like fuchsias, geraniums, begonias and many shrubs. Choose only healthy plants from which to take the cuttings (if you're not sure come along to the Outdoor Propagation workshop!). Spring bulbs are now in the retailers choose only the firm clean bulbs and prepare the ground for planting them next month.

*Good Gardening, Michael Coulter*

Post problems on [HortTalk](#) or email [coulchrys@xtra.co.nz](mailto:coulchrys@xtra.co.nz)

organisations in the wider Canterbury region along with all their info and contact details.

Additionally, their Superhero storm water trailer is now open for bookings through the website. It is a transportable educational facility with games and interactive screens surrounding storm water runoff and pollution. Similarly, they're implementing the Te Tuna Tāone project which is an action learning programme working with schools in Ōtautahi/Christchurch to become kaitiaki and take action to improve the life of this taonga species, the longfin tuna/eel.

The Christchurch Envirokids programme will continue to run at The Kiosk on Saturdays between 10am - 3pm.

Activities are provided and inspired by organisations in the Envirohub Network for primary and intermediate aged children with help from the Envirokids facilitator, Kate. Visit the Envirokids Facebook page [here](#) for more information.

**For more information contact Ben Alder**

tel: 022 157 2413

[benalder@chchenvirohub.org](mailto:benalder@chchenvirohub.org)

[www.chchenvirohub.org](http://www.chchenvirohub.org)

## From the President

What infuriating weather we have been having, so unsettled and of course noticeably cooler than normal. Our gardens have been tried to the limit what with heavy rain and flooding one week to 30 odd degrees one day and 17 degrees the next!

We have just finished assessing gardens for the Edible and Sustainable Garden Awards for the Papanui/Innes and Linwood/Central/Heathcote Community Boards. There are some amazing gardens in Christchurch, often tucked away out of view and we feel so privileged to be able to assess these gardens and chat with the gardeners themselves, there are some great stories told!

Sharnaé, Rachel and Emma are making some great plans for the next few months finding ways to offer members some wonderful gardening experiences. You will read about some of them in this newsletter, keep an eye on your in-box so you can take the opportunity to join in.

The most important meeting of the year is coming up, our Annual General

Meeting. **7pm, Tuesday 29 March.** We are still looking for nominations for board members so thinking caps on please and get those nominations in to the CHS office by the **15th March.**

There is light at the end of the tunnel, we have been assured the mandates are not here for ever so keep cheerful, stay safe and be kind.

**Ray King**

CHS President



## Fruit & Vegetables

**Wednesday 30 March 7.30pm**

Great Nadine Potato growing competition

*Speaker to be confirmed*

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

## Junior Gardeners

**No meeting this month**

## Ramblers

**Tuesday 15 March 9.45am**

**Sumner Meet** at the Clock Tower

**Tuesday 29 March 9.45am**

**Ferrymead Meet** in Countdown carpark

**2022 Programme available now**

[www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers)

**Contact:** Alison Fussell tel: 027 251 3757

## Canterbury HERB Society

**No Meeting in March due to Covid-19**

The Society usually meet monthly at the Avic Hill Craft Centre, 395 Memorial Avenue (in the morning and evening). The Library is open before each meeting.

Subscriptions to the Herb Society are \$15. *Visitors welcome: \$5 per meeting*

[www.facebook.com/CANHERBSOC](https://www.facebook.com/CANHERBSOC)

## Herb of the Month

### *Sweet Basil (Ocimum basilicum)*

Sweet Basil is the classic Italian Genovese basil that most people think about when talking about this aromatic herb. It's typically used in pesto and tomato-based dishes. It has shiny dark green leaves and a spicy aroma, and the taste is pungent but leans toward a sweet, clove-like aroma.

Other species and hybrids of basil include Holy basil, Thai basil and Mexican spice basil, all with unique flavour profiles.

Basil needs a sunny, warm position in well-drained fertile soil and it likes to be kept well-watered but does not like wet feet. It is sensitive to cold / frost tender.

Pinching the tips of stems encourages a bushy plant and more leaf growth. Pinch out flower heads as soon as the buds form

to keep the leaves sprouting.

Sweet Basil is popularly recommended as a companion plant to tomato and said to be a white-fly deterrent. Planting sage and basil close to each other is not recommended though.

Basil makes a delicious addition to tomato dishes and is wonderful in salads, especially Panzanella Bread Salad - in essence a combination of cubes of sourdough or ciabatta bread, ripe chopped tomatoes (fantastic if you have a glut of home grown tomatoes), chopped basil leaves and olive oil.

Basil pesto is well known - it is basically a combination of equal amounts in weight of basil, pine nuts and parmesan cheese and flavoured with salt, pepper and a bit of fresh garlic. Finish a freshly cooked pizza



or pasta dish with fresh sweet basil. Basil often pairs well with fruit such as peaches, strawberries, rock melon and oranges and basil ice-cream is beyond delicious. It is really a versatile kitchen herb.

During summer when basil flourishes, use it as a cooling herb - it is said that it stimulates respiration and therefore brings down temperature. Apart from adding flavour to meals, its nutrients can provide health benefits from antioxidants, as well as from its essential oils when used fresh.

**Supplied by [Canterbury HERB Society](#)**

If you missed a Herb of the Month post catch up [here](#).

**No meeting this month.**

## Online via Zoom

# ALL ABOUT GARDENING

This special outside talk is free to any current CHS Member and available to the first 25 Members that register. Telephone 366 6937 or email [office@chsgardens.co.nz](mailto:office@chsgardens.co.nz).

**Monday 7 March, 7pm**

Our speaker **Brad Lake** is very pleased to finally join us, albeit via Zoom.

Brad has co-founded a number of NZ based hemp companies including The Brothers Green and Mainland Hemp, a Hurunui based hemp processing company.

The businesses are founded on developing a sustainable business platform for social change in Agriculture and Nutrition and have been focused on educating the NZ and International markets around the benefits of NZ hemp. Delivering a range of high quality products, the platforms have allowed for the establishment of a hemp processing facility in Culverden, as well as ensuring that local farmers had their first taste of growing hemp in varying conditions.

With four emerging businesses selling a range of products from hemp seed oil, face serums and hemp hoodie's, NZ hemp's full potential is finally being exposed to the market along with the range of new hemp businesses developing around the country.

*But not as we know it!*

Following Brad's talk Michael Coulter and Alan Jolliffe return to answer your gardening questions. From edibles to exotics - all queries welcome! **Please email questions** to: [office@chsgardens.co.nz](mailto:office@chsgardens.co.nz) (feel free to send in a photo too).

**A Zoom invitation will be emailed on 4th March and a reminder sent on the day.**

Members attending will also qualify for 25% off a coffee and a cabinet item at Ilex Café on the day.

### CHS Clips

For those of you that missed the live Zoom session last month we have a short clip of Michael and Alan discussing Michael's gorgeous tuberous begonias. Click [here](#) or visit the society's [youtube channel](#)

We intend to grow (and improve) our video content throughout the year. Keep watch!

**Tuesday 8 March, 9.30am**

Meet at The Kiosk (outside, rain or shine)

### Botanic Gardens Uncovered

Richard Poole, Christchurch Botanic Gardens' Plant Collections Team Leader, will be giving CHS members an exclusive talk about the bedding plant displays on the Armstrong Lawn and around the gardens. From the design ideas and planning, to the planting process and maintenance, all will be revealed.



**BOT TOTS**  
Gardening & Nature themed activities for Children

[view the facebook event page](#)

**Mondays during term time 10-11.30am**  
at The Kiosk. All welcome, no bookings required. Gold coin entry per child.  
Generously supported by Christchurch City Council

**GARDEN ORGANIC**  
Start your organics journey

**\$260**  
\$325 Non-Members

**OUTDOOR Propagation**  
Semi-hardwood

**\$40**  
\$50 Non-Members

up to **20% off** courses and workshops for Members

Sign-up Online [chsgardens.co.nz](http://chsgardens.co.nz)

become a **Member**