

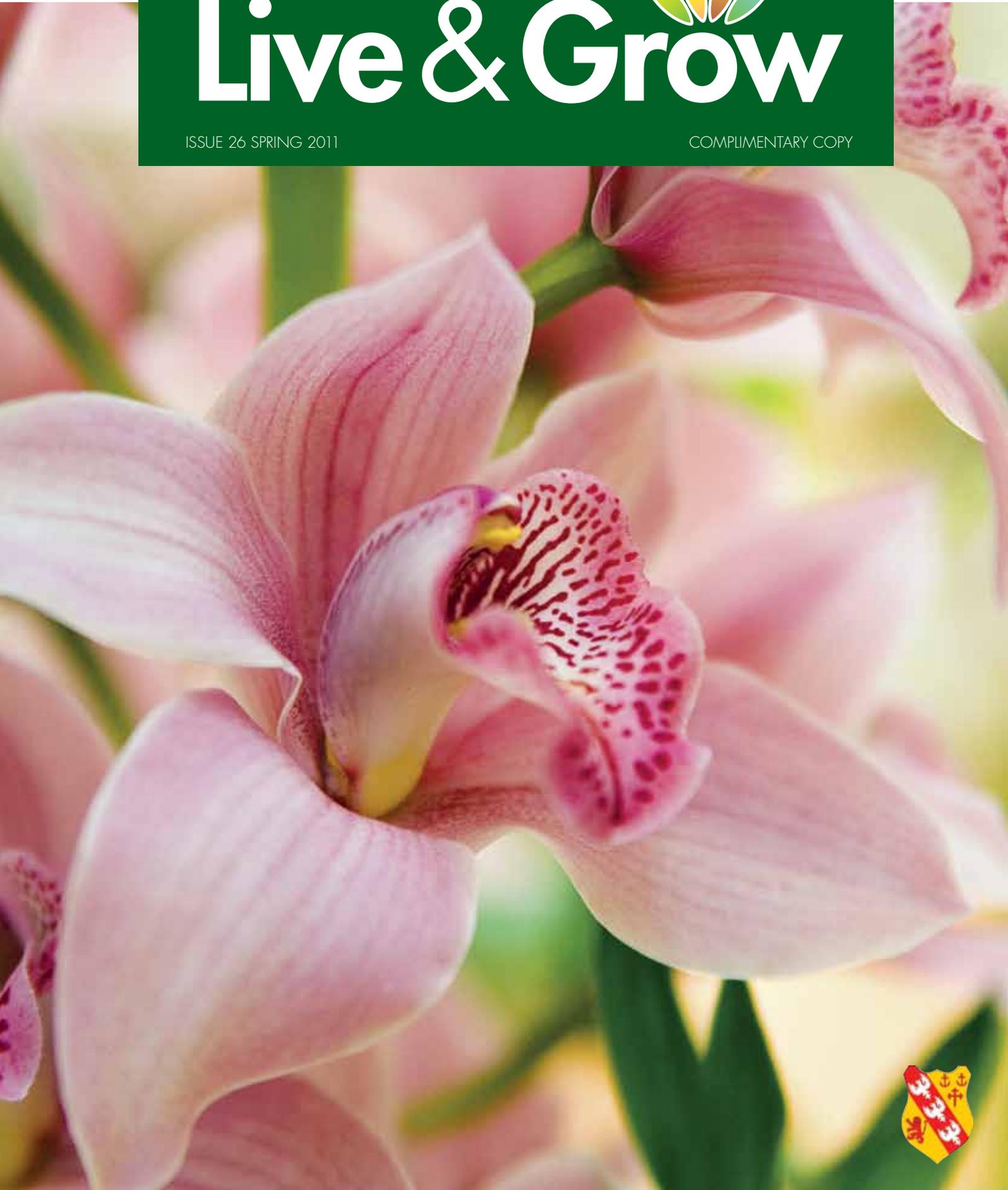
**ODERINGS**

The First Name In Good Gardens

# Live & Grow

ISSUE 26 SPRING 2011

COMPLIMENTARY COPY



MAGNOLIAS | WHAT'S NEW | ORCHIDS



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Cover Shot: Orchid – Cymbidium



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Daniel Hart  
Havelock North



Mega Bite

# Tomatoes Galore

People have been enthusiastically turning back in their droves to the good old fashioned vegetable garden to enjoy their own fruits and veggies, knowing that they are guaranteed the best flavours and the finest, healthiest produce possible.

Oderings have many tried and true varieties of tomatoes but joining this group of tasty treats this spring is the new tomato 'Mega Bite' which has been bred by some of Europe's top vegetable seed producers. This spring/summer star has massive beefsteak-sized, juicy sweet red fruit on a dwarf plant with a height of only 40cm, making this plant perfect for patio planting in pots as well as in the garden. This new hybrid is a taste sensation when combined with salads, crackers or snacks and is excellent cooked or raw. My favourite use is on toast because one slice covers the whole piece.

Tomato 'Mega Bite' is heavy cropping and will need a stake to help bear the weight of the large number of huge fruit. Another bonus of growing this little gem is its higher resistance against leaf spot, and viral and fungal diseases. This is a must have for 2011, you'll love it.

## Also don't forget our other top picks for this season.

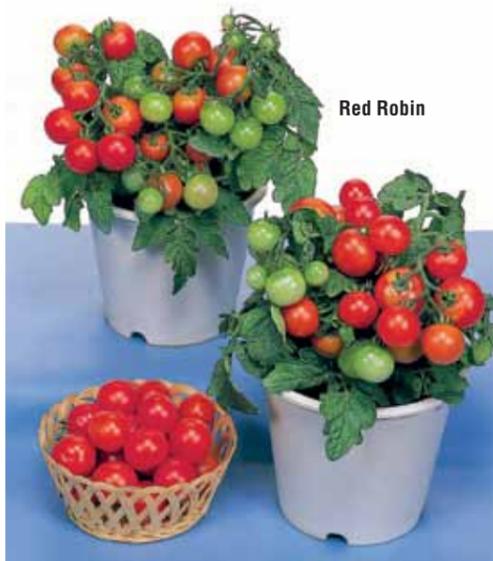
Tomato 'Sweet Treats' is one of my favourites. This large, healthy plant produces masses of the sweetest, tastiest, bite-sized tomatoes that you have ever had. It is considered a cocktail tomato but the fruit is bigger than the 'Sweet 100' with an excellent flavour and an extremely high yield. The fruits are brilliant red, round and very uniform. Bred in Europe, the plant offers resistance against virus, leaf spot and fusarium. 'Sweet Treats' can be grown in large tubs or in a well-drained, sunny position in the garden.

I would highly recommend you try the tomato 'Red Robin' which is a true dwarf tomato reaching only 20cm. It produces lots of tasty cocktail sized fruit. This small yummy tomato grows on a neat and tidy plant which requires no staking and is best



suitable to growing in a container where you can pick the fresh fruit often.

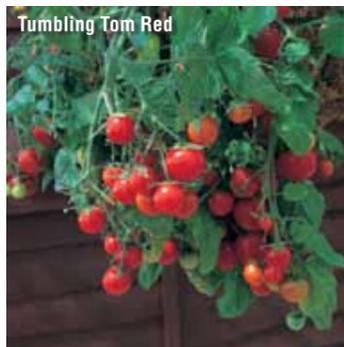
Tomato 'Tumbling Tom' is an outstanding plant like no other. It is available in baskets from which two plants cascade and produce handfuls of sweet, juicy cocktail-sized two to four centimetre fruits.



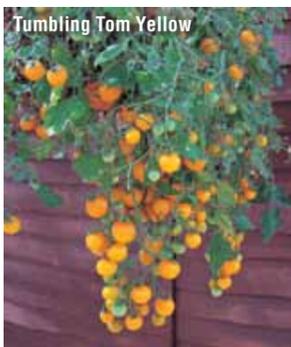
Red Robin



Sweet Treats



Tumbling Tom Red



Tumbling Tom Yellow

# SOME LIKE IT HOT



Birds Eye

New



Jalapeno

With summer fast approaching now is the time to think about planting capsicums and chilli crops. Oderings have a great range of quality plants to choose from, whether you are looking for a nice sweet bell-type pepper for salads or barbeques, or you want something to spice up a meal or a snack.

Peppers are easy to grow in the right conditions; they require a sunny, sheltered spot in the garden away from cold winds. Good drainage is also essential as they don't like it too wet and protection from frost is a must. I have great results at home growing peppers in PB bags or pots because you can move them easily into the best spots in the garden or move them to safety when its frosty (so you don't need to cover them).

Peppers are high in antioxidants and vitamin C, so they not only taste great but are good for you too. Where the stem of the plants splits itself two or three ways at the first junction a large fruit appears, and while it seems wasteful it should be removed to allow more fruit to grow elsewhere on the plant.

Aphids and white fly seem to be attracted to peppers. Use 'Neem Tree Granules' at six weekly intervals in any veggie garden, and if you decide to spray then be aware of any withholding periods.

Peppers require little in the way of feeding and when planted in either of Oderings Potting or Tomato & Veggie Mix will last the summer without supplemental feedings.

Regular watering of your plants when fruiting will help avoid dry, wrinkled fruit and it's a good idea to stake plants otherwise they may bend over with the weight of the yield and snap. Frequent picking encourages more flowers which will give you more fruit. Chillies are measured for heat on what's known as a Scoville rating. The idea is to see how far the chilli extract could be diluted and still have a detectable burn. For example a jalapeno chilli rated at 4500 Scoville units tells us that 4500 parts of sugared water are needed to dilute one part jalapeno extract to the last point that hotness can be tasted, Oderings have a range of chillies to suit all tastes and remember if the heat is too much for you to handle cucumber or

any dairy products will ease the pain especially milk, yogurt or ice-cream. I'm sorry to say water or beer will only increase the fire. Give peppers a go, you will get a lot of satisfaction from growing your own.

## Chilli Scoville Ratings

Jalapeno	4,500
Chilli Sizzler	35,000
Birds Eye	70-80,000



Sweet Banana



Tequila Green and Red



Tequila Yellow



Tequila White



Tequila Black



Tequila Orange



Tequila Purple



# Slugs, snails and caterpillar trails

The mere existence of slugs, snails and caterpillars for many gardeners is enough to drive us crazy. Each spring when I, or my husband plant the new season's bedding plants they have virtually disappeared within the next 24-48 hours. Now, you would think an experienced gardener such as myself would remember (or remind my husband) to apply slug bait when planting, but unfortunately I'm one of those sort of people who generally forgets to think that far ahead, so heed my advice and don't make the same mistakes as I (we) do.

## Slugs and Snails

Generally controlled by slug bait, but with a few different types available how do you know which one to choose? Basically, do you have children, pets, native birds or fish and do you wish to protect earthworms? If the answer is yes to any of these questions then the only product you should be using is Tui 'Quash'. This is a natural bait that is harmful to the pesky slugs and snails, but safe for the living things that are important to us.

If you don't have pets or kids and don't think there is a risk to wildlife then you can use chemical-based baits. Normal chemical slug baits last about one to two weeks depending on the weather/rain,

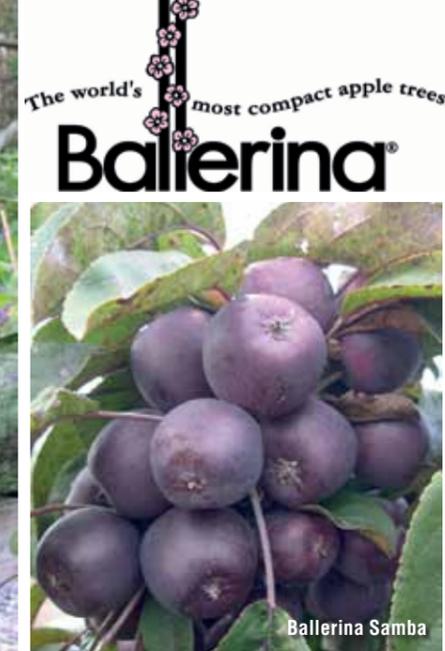
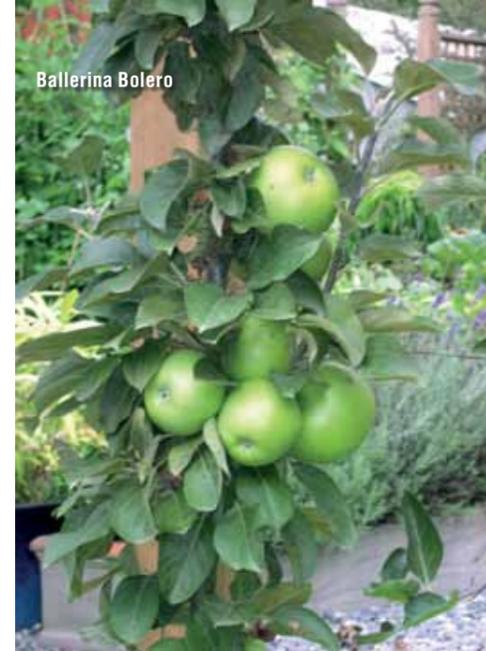
this range includes: Yates 'Blitzem' or McGregor's 'Snail & Slug Pellets'. Alternatively, there is a bait called Yates 'Baysol' that is fast acting and will last several weeks regardless of the weather conditions. As with all chemical baits this is poisonous and can be fatal to pets etc. Keep well clear of children, waterways, fish and pets.

## Caterpillars

There are many types of caterpillars most of which also drive gardeners crazy. Most of us associate unwanted caterpillars with damage on brassicas (cabbage, cauliflowers and broccoli). I'm not into using chemicals where I can avoid it, but

sometimes with caterpillars it is necessary. My first port of call when trying to rid myself of this many-legged fiend is to use Derris Dust. This is a natural product where you sprinkle water over the leaves of the plants, then dust with the product. The problem with Derris Dust is that it is only works for a few days until the dust blows off in the wind or is washed away with rain. However, if this is not working for you and you need something stronger, spray with 'Beat-A-Bug', which is also natural, or Success, Target, Carbaryl, Mavrik or Maldison all of which are all chemically based (so pay attention to withholding periods).

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## Ballerina Apples Space Saving Fruit Trees



There is nothing like having plants in the garden that are attractive and edible.

Being restricted by garden space doesn't need to influence your decision to plant fruit trees when space saving fruit trees are available.

This series of apples comprises the world's original compact apple trees. One of the best characteristics of the Ballerina apple is their natural columnar habit of 30cm wide and 2.5m tall, which almost eliminates the need for pruning (to prune simply remove any larger side branches back to two buds in the winter). They have a stunning spring display of showy white blossoms tinged pink, followed by lush green foliage and glorious coloured fruit in summer so they really are a great all-round garden plant.

Ballerina apples produce plenty of fruit and can be grown in groups as a mini orchard, in pots and containers, with other dwarf fruit trees, or you can use them to line an entrance way, garden path or veggie garden making it look like a fancy potager.

Very little care is required as long as the trees are planted in a sunny spot with fertile, free draining soil and plenty of summer water to ensure the fruit reaches a good size. Although they are fairly disease resistant a basic organic spray program of 'Lime Sulphur' in the winter, followed by two to three applications of copper and spraying oil in early to mid-spring will eliminate any chances of disease and ensure a healthy productive tree.

There are three Ballerina apples to choose from: 'Bolero' has shiny, green, eating apples with a golden blush.

'Polka' has fruit with a delightful red blush and crisp, juicy, flavoursome flesh and a very good flavour.

'Waltz' has stunning, bright red fruit with crisp, juicy and tangy-flavoured flesh which is suitable for eating fresh, drying or cooking.

In addition to the eating apples there are also two crab apples in the Ballerina series, both of which have a mass of stunning, cerise pink blossoms in spring that turn into loads of colourful fruit so attractive you will want to leave them on the tree instead of making them into jelly.

The two varieties are:

'Maypole' which has masses of beautiful, carmine spring flowers followed by large purple-red crab apples.

'Samba' has truly stunning spring display with vibrant carmine blossom followed by bronzy-red new growth and medium sized fruit with dark red-purple skin.



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# CODLING moth

Photo Courtesy of USDA

Have you ever heard the saying 'the only thing worse than finding a caterpillar in your apple is finding half a caterpillar'? Well, that caterpillar is from the codling moth, a major pest that can affect both orchardists and home gardeners alike on their apple trees, pears, quince, walnuts and prunus species including peaches.

For many years gardeners have been told to use codling moth traps. I have had many customers swearing that codling moth traps don't kill the moths and worse, they seem to attract the moths to their trees. Well, if you also think this then you would be 100% correct. The reason we use the traps is so we know whether or not the moths are in the area, and if they are then it's time to take action.

Female moths lay eggs from October to March so you should have your traps placed in the tree prior to October, I recommend late August to mid-September, as sometimes these moths are present in September in warmer areas. The traps work by attracting the male codling moth with the scent (pheromone) that the females use to attract a mate and the males then get entangled in the sticky bait. This is where the information gets tricky. The traps' packaging says that by attracting and catching the male moth you eliminate a the number of fertilised eggs which is true, but really the traps should be used as an indication that the moths are present and it is time to spray your trees.

You need to check your trap at least once a week. If you have caught more than five moths in one

week you have a heavy infestation of codling moth, which in turn means you need to spray your tree with an insecticide. It's important when you spray to wait 10 days from the time the moths arrive as the eggs must hatch into caterpillars before spraying is effective, then re-spray in 7-10 days. Remember to remove the traps when you spray so it does not interfere with the pheromone smell the traps give off, and then reattach the trap to the tree six hours after spraying.

One trap will be sufficient for every three trees within a 15 metre radius, and each trap is effective for 9-12 weeks. Remember to remove moths from the trap every week so it's catching to its full capacity.



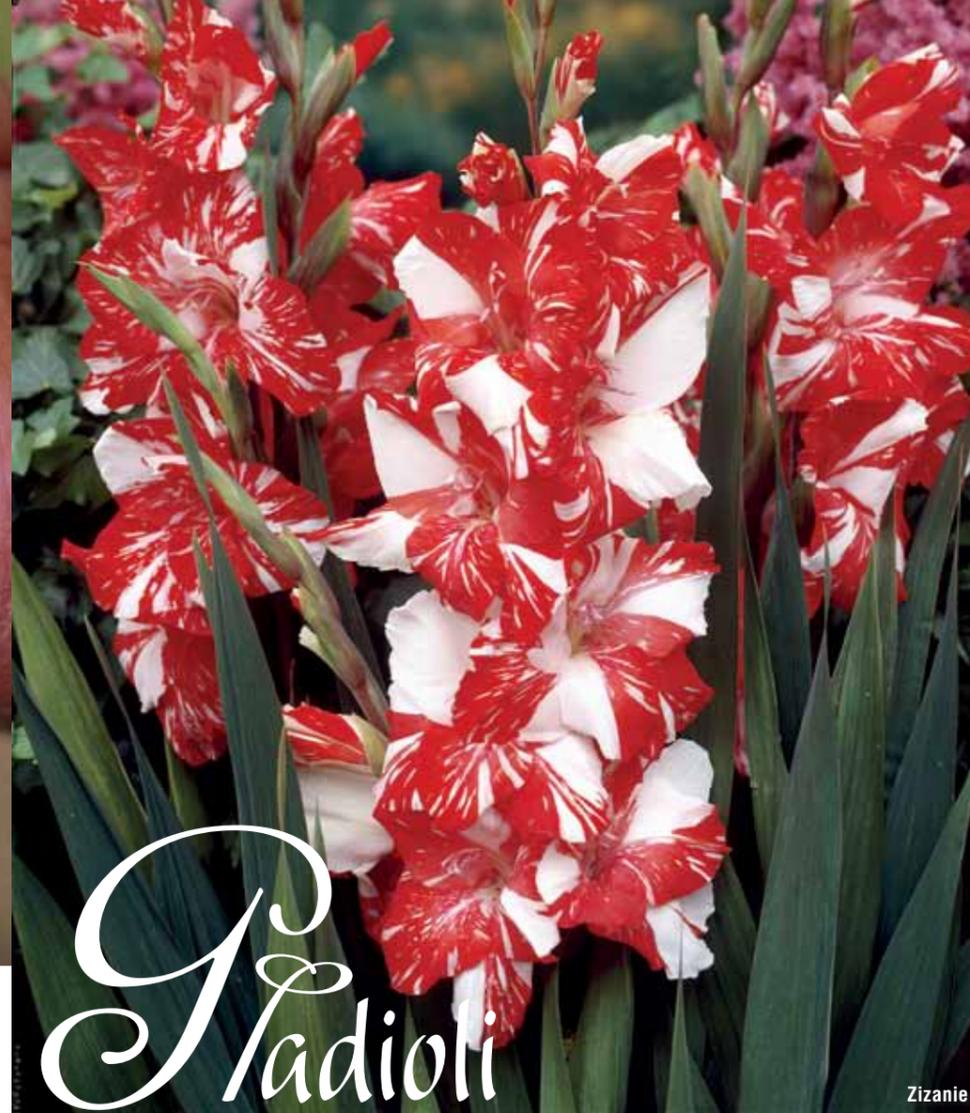
Male Moth



Female Moth



Photo Courtesy of Olaf Leillinger



# Gladioli

Zizanie

Once known as the 'sword lily' gladioli are corms that produce long-stemmed flowers in summer in a vast range of colours that are bright and beautiful. For the best display you should spread the planting of your corms from August to November so you can obtain continuous flowering throughout the summer months. Gladioli flower within 70-90 days after planting, and when planted in groups of 15-25 corms they produce the most striking display.

Gladioli can be grown in many different soil types, but prefer full sun with soil that is well-drained. When planting, cultivate the soil to 20 centimetres and apply Tui 'Bulb Fertiliser'. Never use animal manures because they are high in ammonia and can encourage disease and may rot the corm. Plant the corms six to eight centimetres and 12-15 centimetres apart with the scar from last year's roots facing downwards. About 50-60 days from planting feed again with bulb fertiliser, this will ensure a plentiful number of flowers.

Sap-sucking insects like thrips and aphids can be a problem in the summer and sometimes the leaves develop rust. I recommend you spray with McGregor's 'Rose & Shrub Spray' or Yates 'Shield'; spray early in the morning or later at night to avoid burning the delicate flowers.

If you like to use gladioli as cut flowers try not to cut off too many leaves when picking the flowers

as the plant needs them to grow and prepare for the next season. Since the flowers are so tall its best to plant the corms in a sheltered position and if leaving the gladioli in the garden rather than picking the flowers you will need to stake them.

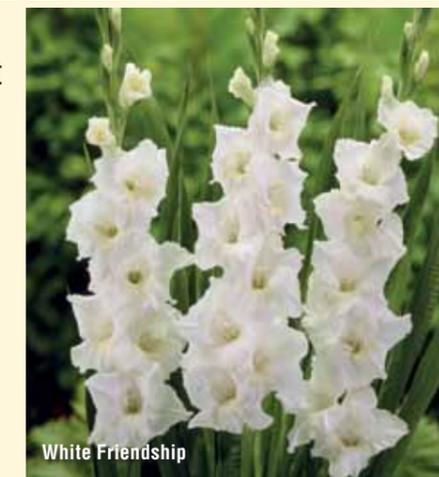
Corms should be lifted as soon as the foliage turns yellow in autumn (normally four to six weeks after flowering has finished). Once lifted, cut the tops of the foliage off immediately and leave the corms to dry in the sun for a day or two. Move into a warm, dry place with plenty of air movement (such as the garage) and remove the old roots when they are dry in two to three week's time.



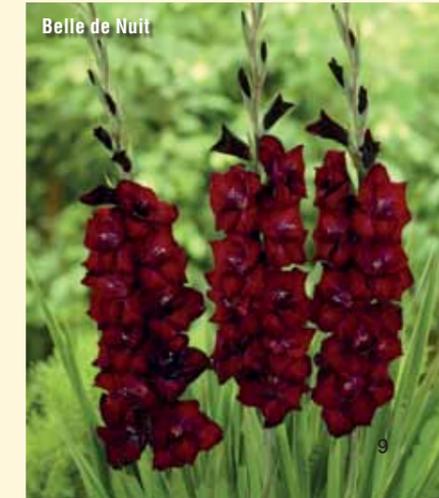
Little Jade Green



Purple Flora

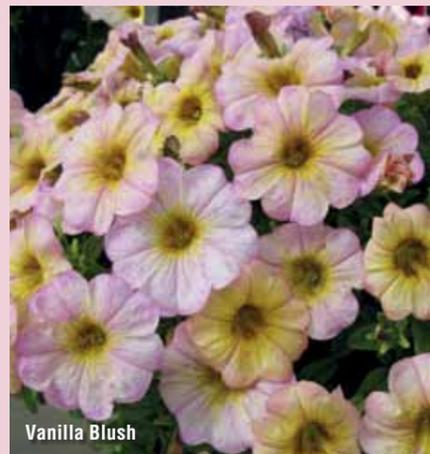


White Friendship



Belle de Nuit

# What's New



Vanilla Blush



Cherry

## Petunia – Vanilla Blush & Cherry

The ever popular petunia series 'SuperCal Petchoa' has expanded this spring to include a delightful 'Vanilla Blush' and a bright and cheerful 'Cherry'. Like the rest of this series the sizzling hot colours offer continuous blooms when planted in pots or baskets, or as a border in a dry garden.

## ▼ Petunia Blueberry Crush

It's new and it's hot – Petunia 'Blueberry Crush' is totally delectable. This perfect perennial has stunning purple flowers with a distinctive violet throat covering its cascading foliage. Bred for its tolerance to weather extremes this long lasting perennial will flower profusely from early summer through to autumn.



## Gazania 'Velvet Belle'

A tough, low-growing new Gazania that features exquisitely large and velvety-red, semi-double flowers over rich green foliage. 'Velvet Belle' flowers repeatedly all year round in warmer climates but from spring to autumn in cooler climates. Drought and heat tolerant, it requires a sunny well-drained site. Gazania 'Velvet Belle' is fantastic in mixed borders, rockeries and seaside gardens, growing just 30cm high by 25cm wide.

Also available is the new Gazania 'Arizona' which has the same growing requirements as 'Velvet Belle' but has generously-sized rich orange, semi-double flowers.



## Tui 'Novatec' Premium

Developed with new technology, is a compound fertiliser that feeds plants more efficiently and sustainably. Tui 'Novatec' has the benefits of nitrogen stabilising technology to grow stronger, healthier plants with higher yields in fruit and vegetable production. Tui 'Novatec' can be used throughout the entire garden including in pots and containers. Visit [www.tuigarden.co.nz](http://www.tuigarden.co.nz) for more information.



## Dianella 'Rainbow Twist'

Exclusive to Oderings is Dianella 'Rainbow Twist'. This plant is aptly named – its twisting foliage changes into a rainbow of colours from season to season. Its autumn/winter colour has a combination of deep reds and purples, while its spring/summer colour has a combination of light green, white and a pinky-red edge. Rainbow Twist is well suited to landscaped gardens that need colour 365 days of the year and at the same time they require little or no watering making them easy to maintain and environmentally friendly. They are suitable for mass planting, growing to approximately 50 cm wide by 50 cm high.



## ▲ Coreopsis 'Mango Punch'

A low, mounding, new perennial that in summer covers itself with a blanket of flowers featuring luscious petals of mango-orange with a red blush, it thrives in sandy and rocky soils, and needs good drainage. Growing to just 30cm high by 30cm wide it is charming at the front of a border or in containers.

Also available this spring is the new Coreopsis 'Strawberry Punch' which produces cheerful blooms of deep rosy-pink flowers with gold eyes that blanket the entire plant.



Spring introduces many new and exciting plants and products for the home gardeners.



## Ajuga 'Blueberry Muffin'

An extremely vigorous, small-leaved groundcover with dark new leaves and 'blueberry' blue flowers on 20cm spires in spring. The leaves are thicker and more weather resistant than other varieties. While it prefers shady, fertile, moist conditions it will tolerate some sun and grows to 15cm high by 70cm wide.

## Exotic Fuchsias

Exotic fuchsias - 2011 offers another 60 stunning new fuchsia varieties from Europe. Keep an eye out for these this season and add some stunning new colours to your garden from this fabulous collection.



Lauren Christina



Dorothy Hanley



Danielle Amber



Goke Sol



Denmark



## Lavender 'Boysenberry'

A new lavender 'Boysenberry', is from the 'Ruffles' series which was so named because the chunky bracts above the flower heads are distinctively rippled along their margins. With their flowers sitting just above the foliage, they offer extra tolerance to humid conditions. Their compact and tidy habit makes these lavenders an ideal choice for smaller garden spaces, containers and hedges. 'Boysenberry' is the new colour this spring with musky pink centres and swirly white tones.

## Apple 'Lady in Red'

'Pink Lady' apples are one of the world's most popular varieties – and now Kiwi gardeners can grow the fruit in their own garden with the new variety 'Lady in Red'. The fruit is pink with a red blush and pure white flesh and a sensational aroma, the flavour is perfectly balanced between tartness and sweetness.



## Thysanotus 'Frlly Knickers'

A new, tufted, grassy perennial with delightful, unique flowers which appear on upright stems bearing clusters of fringed flowers which open mauve in late spring and change to a pale purple in summer. This Australian native is equally at home in pots or in the garden, but needs to be in a well-drained position with slightly acidic soil and light watering in summer. It grows to 50cm high by 30cm wide

## Penstemons



Blueberry Taffy

Penstemons are well known and reliable cottage perennials. The new 'Taffy' series produces large bell-like blooms over two months with multiple spikes on a fuller bush than other penstemons. 'Blueberry Taffy' has large lavender blue lips with a striking white throat and deep blue mauve markings. 'Grape Taffy' has large purple mauve lips with a striking white throat for dramatic contrast and 'Strawberry Taffy' has large strawberry pink lips with a striking white throat and deep pink markings. Plant penstemons in full sun to get the best out of them, they grow 70cm high by 45cm wide.



Grape Taffy



Strawberry Taffy

# Susan Gay Odering

Susan was the youngest child of Raymond and Sylvia Odering. Born on 30 July 1948 with nine older brothers and sisters, she soon fitted in with the entire family.



Growing up with the business that bore her mum and dad's name and being with the founders of the same, she grew up very much at home with the nursery scene. As her older brother of thirteen years I was the delivery person and often took Susan on the trips. Being so young she would sometimes fall asleep on the passenger's side on the floor of the van. Often when she awoke she was 'busting' so I would hold her out over the gutters to relieve herself.

Susan loved her mother, father and family, but being so much younger than everyone else she often used to wonder who would take care of her in the event of her parent's demise. Fortunately she did not need to worry as this did not happen until she was well and truly off their hands.

Susan lived and worked at the Barrington nursery in Christchurch from the age of fifteen. A few years later she met and married Peter Morgan, who also worked for Oderings. In 1959 Peter and Susan moved to the Dunedin branch of the company, Peter as a welder and builder and Susan as the mainstay and often the sole staff member of the branch. By this time her father Raymond had reverted to being the manager and Susan was left to take and dispatch customer's orders and keep track of the Dunedin business workings.

At this time Oderings Dunedin also became a 'garden centre' dealing with the public and she rose to the challenge showing both competence and ability. By now Susan was capable of doing all the many tasks a garden nursery centre was required to accomplish – even sprucing-up the premises with a paint brush.

By 1970 a fresh opportunity arose and the family sold their home in Dunedin and travelled to Silverstream/Pinehaven in Upper Hutt, where they built a new lovely home. A little later she found a garden centre job at 'Twiglands' where she stayed until a marriage break-up brought her back to Christchurch.

Now she was back in the nursery and garden centre she knew so well and she took to it like a 'duck to water'. Susan was highly appreciated by customers for her wide experience of the home garden and its needs and was also still visited and asked questions by her followers and nursery staff right until her passing in June of this year.

Susan's terminal diagnosis in December of 2009 was devastating, especially because her job as manager of dry goods would have to be relinquished – a position she loved and had proved to be the most successful at.

Finally on 17 June of this year she passed away in peace at her home. I have never seen a person with such a condition be so composed and graceful and die with such confidence and dignity.

Donald Odering



## Orchids QUEEN OF FLOWERS

Not too many years ago growing orchids was left to the plant specialists, but certain varieties can grow quite happily at home without much difficulty.

For successful results the correct temperature, light, water and humidity is needed. These may differ slightly depending on the orchid type. Here at Oderings we have found cymbidium, dendrobium and phalaenopsis orchids to be the most popular because they are easy to grow and have exquisite beautiful flowers.

### Cymbidiums

When people speak of orchids, they usually mean cymbidiums. These the easiest to grow and flower. Cymbidium orchids have long, sword-like leaves with flower spikes that appear in late summer to autumn on the previous year's growth. They enjoy a cooler climate, but must be protected from frosts. The long-lasting flowers come in almost every shade and colour ranging from delicate pinks to vibrant yellows.

### Dendrobiums

Otherwise known as the rock orchid, this Australian native has leathery leaves and bulbous stems that resemble a miniature palm tree. Dendrobium orchids produce small, triangular, fragrant flowers which appear in mid-spring followed by new shoots that will produce next year's flowers. The rock orchid is a 'must have' for any plant lovers' collection.

### Phalaenopsis

Many people consider the moth orchid to be the most beautiful of all orchids with large, fleshy,

oval leaves at the base of the exquisite flowers. Phalaenopsis flowers appear to float above the foliage. The flowering period continues for many months. By cutting off the flower spike to just above a node, once the first flowers have finished, a new flower branch will appear and produce more flowers. Choose from a classic white, a bi-colour or a stunning shade of pink.

### Growing Tips

Where phalaenopsis enjoy a warm position, cymbidiums and dendrobiums prefer a cooler climate, but can be brought indoors for us to appreciate their flowering season. All orchids require a bright position out of direct sunlight as their foliage may burn. Keep the soil moist but reduce watering in winter. A slow release fertiliser (e.g. Oderings 'Total Replenish') should be applied during spring to cymbidium and dendrobium orchids. However, phalaenopsis prefer a liquid feed as their shoots are more sensitive. We recommend feeding with Manutec 'Orchid Food' during growing season, followed by Manutec 'Orchid Bloom Booster' when flower spikes are forming.

Orchids are a diverse group of plants with an estimated to 20,000-30,000 species and over 100,000 registered hybrids. Choosing one of these plants can be a hard decision with so many colours and types to choose from; however, from the novice to the most experienced grower there's an orchid out there for you.



# Magnolias



Black Tulip



Yellow



Rustica



Royal Star



Star Wars



Soulangiana Alba

The magnolia family is comprised of both evergreen and deciduous species; however, the only ones with colour (besides white) are deciduous. Deciduous magnolias are still one of the most commonly planted trees in the world possibly because of their many attractions such as magnificent flowers, a nice shape, slow growth and a variety of sizes from 1.5m to 6m tall so there is a magnolia to suit most sections. Most of us don't realise that magnolias detest pruning once established. I recommend you prune off only a few unwanted branches and leave the rest of the tree alone.

Magnolias require a deep, fertile, well-drained soil which is high in organic matter and slightly acidic. They thrive in sun or part shade but should be mulched in spring and summer to keep the roots cool, and given protection from strong winds when flowering. Magnolias can tolerate frosts; however, a late spring frost will often burn the delicate blooms, so it's best to plant them in a sheltered position which will protect the flowers from the morning frost, but give the trees full sun in the afternoon.

When selecting a magnolia its best to think of them in two to three different groups. One group

has star shaped flowers (generally 1.5-3m tall), another has tulip shaped flowers (generally 2.5-5m tall) and the third group has saucer shaped flowers (generally over 5m tall).

Magnolias should be planted as a focal point in your garden where you can enjoy their large, showy, delightful blooms which include the following colour range: crisp white, soft pinks to the deepest pinks, ruby to wine reds, and also yellows. Some varieties even have a delicate lemony scent that you will notice as the weather gets warmer.

There is no other season quite like spring in the garden and one of the trees we all associate with the beginning of spring is the beautiful magnolia. It is generally among the first trees to bloom, with breathtaking flowers that burst from silky buds. The magnolia represents splendid beauty and dignity, and is also associated with perseverance, nobility, sweetness and a love for nature. However, for many of us it is their colours, the shape of the flower and the exquisite fragrance that attracts our attention.



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– Tony Murrell, Landscape Designer



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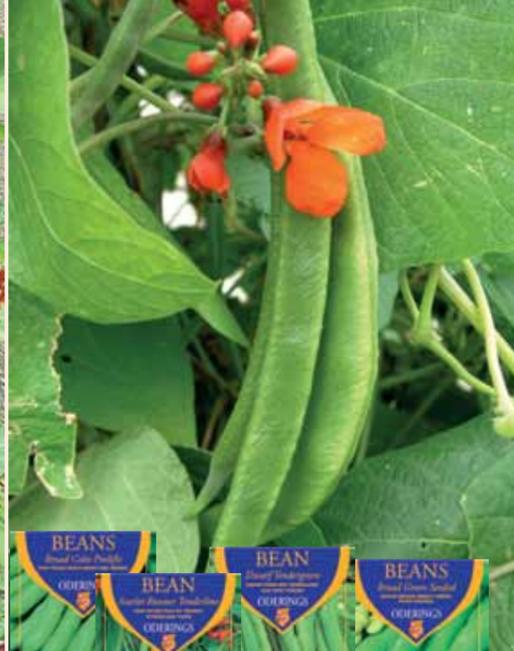


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# BEANS



Beans are one of the most traditional vegetables which are grown all around the world eaten raw or cooked.

All beans can be grown from seed or planted out as seedlings. Sow/plant beans in a sunny well-drained position that is easily accessible for harvest. Before planting your beans dig in plenty of compost. Plant beans throughout the spring and summer at 2-5cm deep, 10-20cm apart in rows 60cm apart. Don't forget to apply a good slug bait after planting. Keep them well watered through the hot, dry months, and harvest often for a longer picking season. After harvest you can eat them fresh, cooked or blanch them and freeze for up to six months.

Beans grow in a range of sizes from dwarf bushes to climbers, in colours which are mainly yellow and green and with pods that are either broad or skinny. They can be broken down into four main groups. Each group consists of many different varieties. The following beans are some of the ones we sell as seeds in the shop.

## Climbing beans

All climbing beans need some sort of support. This support can be anything from a strong wooden trellis to three bamboo stakes tied together in a tee-pee shape with string spiralling down over the tee-pee to the ground for the runners to climb up. We also sell rustic looking willow obelisks that are ideal for climbing beans and which give a highly ornamental look to the garden. Most climbing beans mature in 14 weeks from seed.

Scarlet Runner 'Tenderline' is one of my favourites with long tender pods that can be eaten straight off the plant. At the end of the season cut the runners down to 20cm above the ground and they will re-grow next season.

Scarlet Runner 'Goliath' is the good old scarlet runner. This is a versatile variety which stores well in the freezer and will also re-grow the following season if cut back.

Bean Snake 'Orient Wonder' is an unusual looking bean that is long and slender, growing pods up to 40cm long. The flavour is different to regular beans adding another texture and taste to any culinary dish, especially stir-fries. It needs a hot, sunny area to grow well.

Climber 'Shiny Fardenlosa' has no stringy sides when picked young. It has a waxy looking light green, tender looking pod with a melt in the mouth flavour.

## French beans and dwarfs

French beans are generally green, smooth skinned and grow on a small bush without any need for staking or support. These tasty morsels mature faster than climbing beans but they don't produce for as long, so plant a second succession about two to three weeks after the first sowing.

Dwarf 'Tendergreen' has string-less round pods that are crisp and juicy when bitten into. A great bean for growing in pots or raised vegetable beds.

Dwarf 'Bush Baby' is oh so tender and juicy, only it's on a smaller scale. This is a little bush bean packed with a prolific crop of smaller growing pods up to 100mm long, eat them whole.

'Barlotti Red Rooster' grows in the same way as the other dwarf beans but has amazing red and white blotched pods and it is the ideal bean to make baked beans.

Dwarf 'Scarlet Pimpernel' is a lovely little bush bean ideal for smaller gardens or pots, it produces very tasty traditional pods.

## Butter beans

These yellow beans grow on a small bush or a climber. They tend to have a softer pod and a delicate flavour.

Dwarf 'Yellow Butter Cherokee' grows the same

way as other dwarf beans but has a vivid yellow pod with a very tasty flavour. It is particularly nice in salads or any dishes that need that something extra.

Climber 'Golden Crown' grows the same as any other runner bean so will need a frame to grow up. It is a high yielding bean which produces over a long season.

## Broad beans

These bean giants are staging a comeback in the kitchen. My favourite way to eat broad beans is shelled, raw and fresh off the plant. They almost taste like a strong pea and when I tried them this way, just last year, my view of them changed forever. They are fantastic in a stir fry or lightly sautéed with garlic and butter. Harvested while still young, baby broad beans can be eaten pod and all. The larger and more mature the broad bean the tougher and stronger the flavour. They can grow 1-1.5 meters tall depending on the variety and take longer to mature (if you leave them that long) than other beans, 110 days or 16 weeks.

Broad bean 'Coles Prolific' is best picked young and tender; this is a broad bean that produces large crops on a smaller plant. It is very tasty and loved by many.

Broad bean 'Green Seeded' stays a lovely, bright green colour even when cooked. When picked young it has a sweeter taste that melts in your mouth. A must try.



Vanessa Walmsley-Forbes  
Havelock North

# POTATO AND TOMATO PSYLLID



Were you unhappy with the quality of your potato and tomato crops last year?  
Have your potatoes been really small?  
Have your tomato plants looked wrinkled and stunted?



Unfortunately I am introducing you to the potato and tomato psyllid that has migrated from Mexico. They were first discovered in Auckland in 2006 and have found their way around other parts of both the North and South Islands since this little nasty insect is resistant to nearly all chemical sprays, making it extremely hard to control.

Psyllids go through three stages in their development: egg, nymph and adult.

The eggs usually appear in clusters on the undersides of the leaves and are yellow and tiny (smaller than a pinhead).

Once the eggs have hatched they become lime-green nymphs, which are about 3mm long. This is the stage at which they cause the most damage. Nymphs suck and feed on the sap of your potatoes and tomatoes and damage the leaves both by removing nutrients from the plant and injecting a toxin during feeding. The toxin the nymph injects stops fruit development and stunts any fruit that was already forming. Once you have the nymph on your plants the leaves will curl and turn yellow or purple. If you noticed any of these symptoms then you need to destroy the plants by burning.

Prevention is the best control for psyllids. Carbonate-based sprays will only make the nymph stronger and reproduce faster a bit like giving spinach to Popeye, so fully read the back panel on your spray containers to see what the active ingredients are. It is really important to begin control measures early and carry out regular spraying throughout the season. Generally, if you use Neem Granules in the veggie garden at 4-6 weekly intervals you will notice a huge decrease in pests and diseases, and this seems to include psyllids. If the psyllid is allowed to establish it will be hard to control so a preventative spray programme should also be incorporated for crop health. I recommend you use 'Target', 'Mavrick', 'Confidor' or any other systemic sprays. For organic sprays use a spraying oil as it drowns the nymph. Remember when spraying to fully cover the undersides of the leaves. For best results alternate sprays in a two week rotation.



**LAVENDER**

# Ruffles

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# Background Planting



Thalictrum Aquilegifolium

Plants used in the background of the garden are often the forgotten superstars. More often than not they are one of the most important parts of the garden providing a subtle amount of colour and outlining the overall garden structure. Here are some of my favorites this spring for background plantings.



Lavatera

**Lavatera**  
Has attractive pink, hollyhock-like flowers that cover this fast growing, upright shrub from summer through to late autumn. Cut it back by half in the autumn to help keep this frost hardy shrub in check. Plant it in full sun with well-drained soil, grows to 1.5m.

## Thalictrum

Also known as 'meadow rue'. With branches of slender, upright stems with delightful flowers and soft fern-like foliage it will grow in most soils. Thalictrum prefers part shade but will also grow in full sun. Mulch around the plant with compost to retain soil moisture. Comes in white, lavender and double pink.

## Foxglove

Common name for Digitalis. Characterised by oval deep green foliage and stately spikes of bell-shaped flowers, foxgloves reach 1-1.5m tall in summer. Use in cottage gardens or as background with bedding plants for a mass display. The flowers also perform well when cut for the vase. Plant in full sun to part shade in well draining soil. Available in apricot, strawberry and white.

## Gaura

This is often called the 'butterfly bush' because of the succession of pinkish-white flowers that resemble miniature butterflies from spring to autumn. This quick, easy to grow plant tolerates hot-dry conditions. Gaura is pretty in a cottage garden, rockeries or mixed containers. Plant this frost hardy specimen in full sun in well-drained soil, grows to 1.5m.

## Papaver

Is the 'oriental poppy' which features stunning, large, silky, tissue-like petals and makes for a spectacular and beautiful display from late spring to early summer. Papaver is a good specimen or cottage garden plant. Dormant in late summer to autumn they can often be over-planted with other beautiful summer flowering perennials. Plant it in full sun in well-drained soil. Grows to 90cm and comes in red, scarlet, orange, white, salmon or pink.



Papaver Princess Victoria Louise

## Lobelia

Is the 'cardinal flower' and features graceful clusters of strong-stemmed flowers from late spring through summer. It is excellent for mass plantings, borders or containers. Mulch the soil around it to keep it cool in the summer as they prefer moist well-drained soil. Plant this frost hardy perennial in full sun to part shade, available in blue, rose, salmon or red.



Gaura



Thalictrum Passion Violet



Digitalis Camelot Rose



Lobelia Blue Fan



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