

TUI TIMES



A FRIEND IN YOUR GARDEN FOR OVER 100 YEARS

SUMMER 2012



Water is a vital ingredient for you to grow a successful garden this summer, but summer is also the time when water restrictions may be in place. So, how do you keep your garden watered and conserve water at the same time?

Well Watered

The method chosen to water plants has a significant impact on how much water is absorbed by the plant roots. Irrigation systems like soak hoses and dripper irrigation systems that water into the soil, rather than on plants, are the most efficient. They ensure plant roots grow deeper and are more resilient to dry conditions.

Less frequent, deep soakings are more effective than lighter, more frequent watering because it encourages plant roots to grow feeder roots deep into the ground in search of water. This helps plants to better survive short term drought. If the soil is moist 10 centimetres below the surface it is probably sufficiently moist, but if it is dry at this level it needs to be watered.

Overwatering plants can do as much damage as not

enough water. A damp growing environment will make plants vulnerable to diseases like root rot, blackspot and mildew. A diseased plant is also more likely to become a home for pests.

Watering tips

- 'Recycle' water - collect rainwater or 'grey water' from the bath or washing machine to water shrubs.
- Water early morning or in the evening to avoid water loss through evaporation. Water droplets can act as lenses, concentrating the sunlight and burning foliage.
- Apply water close to the ground and aim along the drip line of plants.

Water saving products

Products to assist your water-saving crusade:

- Apply Decco Saturaid granular soil wetter to garden beds, pots and lawns.



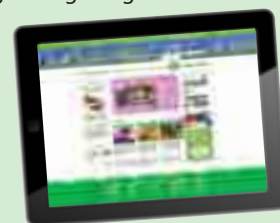
- Use Tui Mulch and Feed around plants, it can prevent up to 75% of evaporation loss, stop run off and keep soil cool.
- Compost increases moisture holding capacity in soil, particularly in sandy soils.

- **Saturaid can reduce water use by up to 50%.**
- **It promotes even water distribution and channels water to the root zone, so water is used more efficiently and effectively.**



online

Tui's website has all the advice and information you need to grow a great garden.



Webisodes

With one for every season, the Tui Time seasonal webisodes are your one stop shop to find out what to do in your veggie, fruit and flower gardens throughout the year. They cover what to sow, plant and harvest, as well as general garden tasks. Watch or read them at: www.tuitime.co.nz.

How-To Guides

From a step by step guide to raising seeds, to top tips for tasty tomatoes, and a general veggie gardening guide, the Tui Time How-To Guides have all the advice and information you need to grow successful fruit, flowers and vegetables. www.tuigarden.co.nz/how-to-guide.

Gardener's Diaries

Tui's monthly gardening guides for your fruit, flower and vegetable gardens provide all the information on what you need to do in your garden each month of the year. Visit: www.tuigarden.co.nz/panel/gardeners-diary.



Watch this..



View more how-to videos at www.tuitime.co.nz

...and use this!



For more information visit our website

www.tuitime.co.nz



Summer sunshine signals time to reap the benefits of all that hard work you put into your garden over the spring months – it is time to harvest tasty tomatoes, juicy strawberries and creamy new potatoes for Christmas dinner – yum!

Judging by the posts on the Tui Facebook page, spring was a busy time in the garden for most of you, so there should be lots to enjoy. Thank you for sharing the pictures and please keep them coming – it is inspirational to see people's hard work in their gardens, from all around New Zealand.

The past few months have been a busy time in Tui HQ too – the School Garden Challenge closed at the end of October with hundreds of entries for the judges to review to select the finalists. Judging was underway as we went to print so take a look at www.tuigarden.co.nz/school-garden-challenge to see who the winners were.

The Summer Tui Times has loads of information to help you keep your garden growing over the warmer months. Take a look at the Summer Gardening Guide for your top tasks this season, Rachel Vogan's article on heirloom crops to try, and Helen Jackson's piece inspired by her kitchen garden.

Happy summer and happy gardening!

Katie Karrot



Left: Westport North School's Composting Chimneybot. Right: Papamoa Primary.

Success in the school garden

The Tui School Garden Challenge's search for the best school garden in New Zealand drew to a close at the end of October after a busy three months of sowing, planting and harvesting by schools New Zealand-wide in their quest to claim the title.

Over 600 Pre-Schools, Primary Schools and Intermediates entered the School Garden Challenge in 2012. Fantastic progress was made in the schools' gardens over the three short months. The 'Reduce Reuse Recycle' concept was evident in all gardens – most schools had compost bins and worm farms and recycled everyday items as planters.

Many schools faced challenges in the garden – from frosty weather to hungry bunnies – but still arrived to the end of the Challenge with abundant gardens and a new found appreciation of where their food comes from.

"We started with a bare patch of grass, an old sand pit nobody used, no money and no adults or caretaker to help. We have now got a beautiful vegetable garden that the children have built, dug, planted, named and maintained. We have now got 2 parents helping us every Monday and tools and plants that were donated by companies in the Wairarapa. We have an orchard, a worm farm (donated) that is making worm wine that we are selling, watercress growing in a hydroponic unit and a water tank that is supplying the plants with all the water they need. I'm so proud of the kids. They are doing a wonderful job!" – Featherston School, Featherston.

Find out who the winners were, visit:

www.tuigarden.co.nz/school-garden-challenge

Schools kept Tui updated on their progress through blogs, photos, emails, diaries, videos and posters; the quality of the entries was outstanding. The judges were tasked with selecting the finalists and then visited them to determine the three category winners and the overall winner.

The finalists were:

- Frankleigh Park Kindergarten, New Plymouth
- Tuakau's Little Stars, Tuakau
- Bayview Kindergarten, Auckland
- ABC Hei Hei, Christchurch
- ABC Raumati, Raumati
- Owairaka District School, Auckland
- Westport North School, Westport
- Featherston School, Featherston
- Karetu School, Kawakawa, Northland
- Opuia School, Opuia, Bay of Islands
- Ohope Beach School, Whakatane
- St Anthony's Pahiatua, Pahiatua

Without our sponsors, none of this would have been possible, so we express a warm thanks to the following organisations:



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The Happy Gardener



Oldies but Goodies



By Rachel Vogan

After standing the test of time, a number of well flavoured good old fashioned vegetables are well worth hunting down and growing at home. Oldies but goodies, if you fancy something different in the edible garden this season, why not try a few of these heirloom and old fashioned crops that are making a comeback.

Ones to look out for:

Spring *(after frosts)*

Pumpkin Triamble

A must have for the foodie, this iron bark type pumpkin has exceptional flavour and stores for a long time after harvest due to its hard skin. With three distinct segments (hence the reference to 'tri') it's a superstar of a pumpkin. Not a heavy cropping pumpkin, expect between three and five pumpkins per plant. Sow seeds in spring or early summer.

Tomato Amish Paste

An old heirloom variety dating back to 1885, with intense flavour. This oval tomato is a vigorous plant and is well worth a try. Seed is widely available, and plants may appear in spring.

Pea

Believed to be a cross between a pea and a bean, this wonderfully unique crop has Italian origins. With a similar

habit to sweet peas, but with bean-like foliage, the dark green smooth skinned peas have white 'pea' like beans inside. They can either be cooked whole, like a bean or podded like a pea. Be prepared to order this one early from a seed specialist.

Summer

Saffron

Another one for the foodies and worth its weight in gold! Saffron is very easy to grow at home in the garden. Saffron is actually a type of crocus. Plant in late spring or early summer in a sunny spot, in well drained fertile soil. Harvest in autumn once flowers appear. Saffron corms are available from bulb growers and specialist heirloom seed companies.

Jerusalem Artichokes

These yummy tall sunflower-looking plants need plenty of room and they are wonderful as a backdrop for the veggie garden. Due to their tall habit

they are ideal as a host plant for other crops such as peas and beans to climb up. Harvest the tubers from under the ground when tops die down in autumn and through the winter months. They can be grated into soups, or roasted. Tubers are widely available in winter in organic food shops.

Autumn

Miners Lettuce

A wonderful salad green that is at its best in the cooler months. Plant in autumn and harvest all through winter and spring. Reputed to have come to

New Zealand with the early Chinese gold miners and naturalised in many areas, it is best in moist soils, and will willingly cope with a little shade.

Winter

Potato Pink Fir

With Irish origins, the name "fir" is Gaelic for "man". With fat, finger sized potatoes, a pinkish skin and yellow waxy flesh these have an exceptional flavour. Not an overly large cropping potato, but well worth the effort to track it down. Be prepared to order this one early from a seed specialist.



Jerusalem Artichokes



Miners Lettuce



Summer Gardening Guide

In the summer garden spring veggie crops are ready to harvest, flowers are blooming and it's generally sunny and hot. Take time to enjoy your garden but also take time to protect it and get the most from your plants.

In your fruit garden:

- Strawberries – the more you harvest the more they will grow – so get picking!
- Stake newly planted trees.
- Prune existing fruit trees and remove fruited canes from berry plants as required. Some berries fruit on second year wood, so check the Tui Time Berry Growing Guide to see whether yours should be pruned.
- Thin out growth on grape vines, once fruit has set pinch out tips from two nodes down so that the energy goes into the fruit rather than the foliage. Check for pests and diseases and deal with any

problems immediately before they take hold.

- Harvest fruit regularly to get the most from your crop.

In your flower garden:

- Make the most of your blooms with basic maintenance – dead heading, weeding, watering, and feeding.
- Use Tui Novatec to feed your flowering plants and extend the season as long as you can.
- Plant up new hanging baskets, pots and containers – use Tui Flower Power for best results.
- Plant Aster, Chrysanthemum,

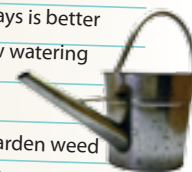
Cosmos, Dahlia, Geranium, Gerbera, Impatiens, Marigold, and Petunia, to name a few.

- The Tui NZ Flower Garden book has a full list of flowers to sow and plant in summer.



General tasks over summer:

- ☐ Add Saturaid soil wetter to all areas of your garden including pots and your lawn.
- ☐ Mulch around your plants. A good layer of mulch on your garden will conserve moisture, protect plants from heat and suppress weeds.
- ☐ Water in the morning before the day gets too hot. A good deep soak every few days is better than shallow watering every day.
- ☐ Keep your garden weed free; don't let your plants compete for water and nutrients.



Visit www.tuitime.co.nz and watch the Summer Seasonal Guide and view our monthly gardening diaries for more information.

In the vegetable garden:

- Check your crops for signs of pest and disease like green caterpillars and powdery mildew and of course slugs and snails.
- Spray crops with Tui Eco-Pest to prevent pests like aphids and white fly taking hold and regular applications of Tui Eco-Fungicide will prevent powdery mildew on your courgettes.
- Keep mounding up your potato plants.
- Pick the laterals off your tomato plants, and make sure plants heavy with fruit are well staked and fed.
- Harvest your veggies regularly, this helps promote more growth throughout the season.
- Share veggies with your neighbours.
- Summer is an ideal time to plant: capsicum, courgettes, cucumber, eggplant, kumara, pumpkin; and fresh summer herbs like: basil, chives, parsley, and thyme to name a few!



For a more detailed list, view the planting calendar at www.tuigarden.co.nz



Companion Planting

Planting particular plants together can be beneficial in terms of deterring pests and attracting good bugs, such as insects for pollination.

Common examples of companion planting include:

- Marigolds - plant these to repel aphids and attract hoverflies which eat aphids.
- Hyssop is planted to discourage white butterfly from brassicas like cabbage.
- Garlic can be planted with roses to repel aphids.
- Poached egg plant deters white cabbage butterfly and attracts hoverflies.



Vegetable	Ideal companions	Unsuitable companions
Asparagus	Basil, coriander, dill, nasturtiums, parsley, tomatoes	Garlic, onions, potatoes
Bean	Carrots, cabbages, cauliflowers, celery, cucumbers, marigolds, sweetcorn	Capsicums, chives, garlic, leeks, other onions and tomatoes
Broad bean	Brassicas, carrots, celery, lettuces, potatoes, sweetcorn	Fennel
Beetroot	Brassicas, broccoli, cabbage, lettuces, onions, sage	Beans (pole)
Broccoli	Celery, chamomile, dill, rosemary	Oregano, strawberries
Brussels sprout	Dill, potatoes, thyme	Strawberries, tomatoes
Cabbage	Beetroot, celery, oregano, potatoes, sage, plus any other strong-smelling herbs	Strawberries, tomatoes
Carrot	Bush beans, lettuces, onions, peas, radishes, runner beans, tomatoes	Dill, parsnips
Capsicum	Basil	
Cauliflower	Beans, celery, oregano, peas	Nasturtiums, peas, potatoes, strawberries, tomatoes
Celery	Cabbages, leeks, onions, spinach, tomatoes	Parsnips, potatoes
Courgette	Nasturtiums	
Cucumber	Beans, celery, lettuces, peas, potatoes, radishes	Cauliflowers, potatoes, basil or other strong-smelling herbs
Eggplant	Beans, capsicums, potatoes, spinach	
Leek	Carrots, celery, onions, strawberries	
Lettuce	Carrots, cucumber, radishes, strawberries	Beans, beetroot, parsley
Melon	Sweetcorn, radishes	Potatoes
Onion	Broccoli, cabbages, lettuces, strawberries, tomatoes	Beans, peas
Pea	Beans, carrots, cucumbers, radishes, sweetcorn	Onion family
Potato	Beans, cabbages, eggplants, peas, sweetcorn	Cucumber, pumpkin, squash, sunflower
Pumpkin	Beans, peas, radishes, sweetcorn	Potato
Radish	Beans, carrots, cucumbers, lettuces, melons, peas and squash	Brassicas
Spinach	Cauliflowers, celery, eggplants	
Sweetcorn	Beans, celery, cucumbers, melons, peas, radishes	Tomatoes
Tomato	Asparagus, basil, carrots, celery, parsley	Brassicas, fennel, potatoes, sweetcorn

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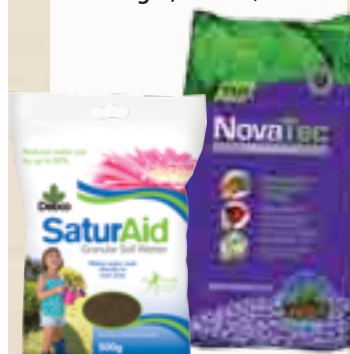


Members of the Tui Times newsletter receive fortnightly email newsletters with seasonal gardening advice, recipes and competitions. Join up at www.tuigarden.co.nz/page/tui-time-newsletter



Win!
one of ten
Gardening Prize
Packs!

Sign up to the Tui Times newsletter before the 28th of February 2013 and go in the draw to win one of ten prize packs of Novatec Premium Fertiliser 1.5kg and Debco Saturaid 500gm, worth \$30.



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Helen Jackson

Kitchen Garden

The lovely thing about summer in the edible garden is the volume available for picking.



Summer produce, with only a few exceptions, seems to take up small amounts of space meaning I can rely more on my own garden for meals than I can during the rest of the year.

Rocket is a daily staple and it is easy to grow enough to keep up a good supply with a variety of lettuces and other salad greens growing as well. Once your rocket heads to seed and starts to flower then make sure you pick the flowers off and add them into your salads. They look pretty and actually do have flavour. Chive and sage flowers are also good to use but the best of them all is possibly onion flowers. The crunchy little seeds within the onion flower offer a wonderful onion flavour. If you have a huge supply you can even dip the flowers in tempura batter and quickly fry them until crisp. In general the flower carries

the flavour of the plant but in a milder form.

My basil is currently prolific enough to make pesto as well as pairing with the gorgeous rosy red tomatoes planted in amongst my flowers. The award for volume though must go to courgettes, they seem to appear almost overnight and if not picked will form marrows very quickly. A couple of plants will keep a family happy for much of summer. If humidity is an issue then plant them somewhere with good air flow and spray leaves with Tui Eco-Fungicide if powdery mildew starts to appear.

Courgette fritters are a summer favourite or just grated and pan fried with olive oil and garlic and mixed with crumbled feta they make a delicious topping for bruschetta. Courgettes are also perfectly at home on the

barbecue. The barbecue is a great place for many of the summer vegetables, meaning that the whole of dinner can be cooked outdoors. Courgettes, eggplants and peppers are all suited to this style of cooking and often I will make a barbecue ratatouille. Slice and brush vegetables with oil prior to cooking and then grill until tender, combine in serving dish with a good drizzle of extra virgin olive oil and a generous splash of your favourite vinegar.

While sweet corn is delicious regardless of how you cook it, removing it from its layers, brushing with a little olive oil and then barbecuing produces a really intense corn flavour. These can be eaten as is or scraped off the cob with the back of a heavy kitchen knife to make this delicious Mexican style corn salad.

Mexican Corn Salad

4 large corn cobs
1 red onion, finely chopped
20 cherry tomatoes, halved
2 avocados, chopped
large handful coriander leaves
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
juice from 1 lime
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Strip husks from corn, brush with a little oil and then barbecue until the corn starts to get dark brown flecks. Remove the corn from heat and when cool enough to handle scrape the kernels from the cob using the back of a heavy knife. Toss the corn, onion, tomato, avocado and coriander together on a large platter and drizzle combined oil, lime juice, salt and pepper.

For extra volume toss rocket leaves into the salad as well.

www.foodlovers.co.nz

SMART SUMMER PRODUCTS

Tui Pea Straw Mulch **NEW!**

New from Tui, Pea Straw Mulch is ideal for mulching around vegetables, fruit trees, flowers, trees and shrubs to help conserve soil moisture. It also suppresses weed growth, protects roots against frost, adds valuable nitrogen to the soil as it breaks down, conditions and improves soil structure, and is 100% organic.

Joseph Bentley Tools **NEW!**

This summer Tui has three new additions to the Joseph Bentley range including a dutch hoe, a garden rake and smooth grain leather gloves. Perfect gifts for gardeners this Christmas!

Novatec Premium Fertiliser

Feed your plants and they will feed you. Fertilising is important to help replenish soil with nutrients

previously used by plants during the growing season, to ensure your plants flourish. Novatec has been developed with new nitrogen stabilising technology which feeds your plants more efficiently and sustainably. Novatec can be used to feed the entire garden: edible crops, flowering plants, fruit trees, and shrubs. It is also safe for use on your plants in pots and containers, and is highly recommended for roses. Watch the Novatec Guide at www.tuitime.co.nz to find out more.

Debco Saturaid

Saturaid is a granular wetting agent formulated to draw and hold water in the soil, distributing water evenly and directly to the root zone resulting in stronger, deeper root systems. Saturaid also makes fertilisers more effective in the soil, including sandy, clay and compacted soils. Watch the Debco Saturaid Guide at www.tuitime.co.nz to find out more.



5 HOLIDAY PROJECTS FOR LITTLE GREEN FINGERS

With the summer holidays knocking on the door it's handy to have a few projects up your sleeve to occupy the kids outside, away from the computer, x box and television.



Once kids take an interest in the garden their attitude towards what they eat tends to change as they become aware of how food grows. They become proud to be able to grow something from scratch in their own patch!



ABC Raumati
School Garden Challenge Entry



1. Gumboot planters

Decorate and plant up an old gumboot. Kids love playing with soil (and mud) once water is added. Poke some holes in an old gumboot for drainage; fill with Tui Vegetable Mix or Tui Strawberry Mix and plant strawberries or lettuces. If you don't have gumboots available, plastic milk bottles with the top cut off work equally as well.

4. Pumpkin and courgette tattoos

Pumpkins and courgettes are quick growing veggies, the fruit appears pretty quickly after the flowers are fertilised. Carving names or designs into the skin of the developing crop with a pencil is fun. As they get bigger and bigger so does the name. It teaches the kids that the more they water and care for their plants the bigger they will grow.

2. Butterfly garden

Plant a garden to attract beautiful butterflies to your backyard. Swan Plants, Scabious, Cornflower, Tithonia, Tweedia, Coreopsis are all plants that will encourage butterflies. Swan Plants are easy to grow both indoors or out. Kids love watching the monarch caterpillar develop and are often enthralled to see the butterfly emerge. Don't encourage them to eat any part of this plant as it is toxic, it's a good plant to watch but not eat.

5. Worm farms

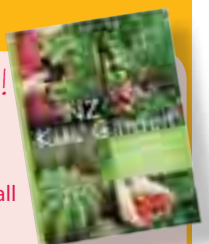
Some kids are obsessed with 'potty talk' and toilet behaviour. Making a worm farm to produce worm wee is a fun way to encourage them to understand about how worms work, by breaking down food scraps and excreting a valuable and reliable liquid fertiliser – worm wee!

3. Micro greens or mini veggies

Are quick and easy to grow. Sow a tray of quick growing seeds like radish, lettuce or cabbages, and eat the leaves as soon as they are finger size – they make a yummy addition to sandwiches. Get the kids to decorate the container they are growing them in before you get started to make it more appealing. See the article on growing micro greens on www.tuigarden.co.nz for more information.

Great book for kids!

Last but not least, read all about it in the Tui Kids Gardening book, available at all good book stores and garden centres, it's jam packed full of other great ideas to keep the future generations of gardeners busy and interested for hours.



Gardening For The Space-Poor

Being time poor or living in an apartment or a smaller property is no excuse not to grow a few veggies and flowers. A number of edible crops have a very small root zone, and if well watered and placed in an area that receives sun for at least half the day, they will reward you with fresh produce throughout the year.

Straight up – vertical grow bags or wall planters:

If you have a sunny fence or wall, grow some vegetable crops in hanging planters. Either make your own by attaching plant pots to the wall, or look out for specific wall hanging grow bags at your garden centre.

Crops to grow:

- Lettuce, salad greens, parsley, coriander, arugula, chives, and nasturtiums.

Tips:

- It's easiest to fill hanging grow bags flat on the ground, fill with Tui Vegetable Mix, allow the soil to settle and plant.
- Water and then allow the water to drain before attaching to the wall using a strong nail or hook. The soil, water and plants are heavier than they look.

Herb planters:

These are indeed very handy and not just useful for growing herbs. Simply fill with Tui Vegetable Mix each season.

Crops to grow:

- Numerous crops willingly grow in herb planters.
- Edible flowers such as violas and nasturtiums are good options.

- Small leafed lettuces, mizuna, cress and arugula are good salad choices.
- Strawberries work well, as do cranberries – remember to provide a little shade for the cranberries as they prefer a cool root zone.

It's in the bag!

For the super time and space poor gardener, grow your own crops straight in a bag of Tui Vegetable, Strawberry or Tomato Mix.

Crops to grow:

- Good crops are perpetual or come again lettuces that can be harvested leaf by leaf.
- Rocket, parsley, chillies, spinach, chives, thyme, strawberries and tomatoes also work well.
- Add some edible flowers such as violas or calendula; they are not only pretty but fully edible too.

Tips:

- Lay the bag flat, and simply poke some holes in the bottom of it for drainage. Flip over the bag and place somewhere in full sun.
- Next cut some criss-cross holes in the bag, opening a space about finger length, just enough room to fit a small seedling into.
- Cut as many incisions as you like, an average bag of Tui Vegetable Mix can take 6-9 seedlings.
- For tomatoes, stand the bag of Tui Tomato Mix up and cut the top, fold back the plastic a little and then plant your tomato. For a sweet 100 cherry tomato you would only plant one into the bag. For dwarf varieties you could lay the bag flat on the ground, put holes in the bottom for drainage and plant three tomato plants. Stake tall tomatoes at the time of planting.
- Top tip: Put the bag into position before planting and watering, as once it's wet it will be quite heavy.



Tui Top Tip

Replace potting mix once a year or replenish the soil with Tui Vegetable Food each season (refer to the instructions on the packet). Crops grown in confined spaces use more fertiliser and water than they would if grown in the soil.

Hanging baskets:

Baskets and window boxes are often overlooked as being space saving ways to grow plants and crops.

Crops to grow:

- Strawberries, parsley, coriander, chives, nasturtiums, thyme and chervil are all popular and reliable options.

Tips:

- For something a little different a kitchen colander makes an attractive hanging basket.
- Line the container with sphagnum moss, fill with Debco Pot Power, plant and hang.

Pallets:

Recycling, reclaiming and reusing pallets for vertical or flat gardens are becoming increasingly popular.

Crops to grow:

- Salad crops and herbs are good options for planting in pallets.

Tips:

- Pallets can be lined with plastic, filled with soil, stood on their edge vertically and used to plant salad crops and herbs.
- Alternatively they can be laid one on top of the other and used to place plants and pot crops on top of, to save bending over.
- Be aware that the timber isn't treated so it won't last more than a season or two, but it's free or cheap and looks effective, so well worth the effort.