



SPRING & SUMMER TIMES 2026

FOR THE GARDENER IN ALL OF US

ISSUE 50

FREE. TAKE ME!

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After reading, tear me up and put in with your kitchen and garden waste!



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Share your snaps & win!

No matter where you're at in your garden journey, we love seeing how you're growing. Simply tag your garden snaps and videos with **@tuigardenandhome** on @Instagram to be in to win a bumper pack to keep your harvests coming!

We will pick one lucky winner each month and notify by direct message.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



We'd love to see you over on our social media channels. It's abuzz with garden shares, tips & tricks.

Facebook: **TuiGarden**

Instagram: **@tuigardenandhome**

TikTok: **@tuigardenandhome**

YouTube: **@TuiTV**

Web: **tuigarden.co.nz**

TRANSFORM YOUR SPACE WITH POTTED COLOUR



To give your outdoor area a lift for the entertaining season, potted colour is a fun and easy way to make it happen. Pick some plants you love, plant them in a pot and you're away.

Whether you've got a large backyard, a compact courtyard or a sunny balcony, a few well-placed pots can instantly brighten your outdoor space. Think cheerful flowers by the front door, leafy pots on the deck or a colourful mix to liven up a quiet corner.

You don't need experience to create a colourful garden with pots. Start small, experiment with combinations you enjoy and go from there. The best part is that if you feel like a change, you can switch things up anytime. Grab a pot, pick some plants, and give it a go!

WHY POTTED COLOUR WORKS

Pots offer instant impact and endless versatility. They allow you to:

- Add colour exactly where it's needed.
- Grow plants in small spaces.
- Move plants to suit changing conditions and seasons.
- Refresh your display throughout the year.

CHOOSE COLOUR FOR THE SEASON

Keep your pots looking their best by selecting plants that thrive at different times of the year.

- **Spring:** Pansies, primulas and flowering bulbs.
- **Summer:** Petunias, geraniums and calibrachoa.
- **Autumn:** Chrysanthemums and ornamental foliage plants.
- **Winter:** Cyclamens, hellebores, hardy grasses and small evergreen plants, violas, primula.

Swapping a few plants each season is an easy way to keep containers looking fresh and vibrant year-round.

A SIMPLE FORMULA FOR STUNNING POTS

If you're not sure where to start, try the classic "Thriller, Filler, Spiller" approach:

- **Thriller:** a taller plant that adds height.
- **Filler:** colourful plants that create fullness.
- **Spiller:** trailing plants that soften the edges and cascade over the pot.

Mixing these three elements creates a full, vibrant display, and the best combinations are the ones you create yourself.

KEEP POTS LOOKING THEIR BEST

- Plant into a premium potting mix such as **Tui Potted Colour Mix**, specially formulated with extra potassium to encourage vibrant flowers in pots, containers and hanging baskets.
- Feed regularly with **Tui All Purpose Liquid Superfood** during the growing season to encourage strong growth and continuous flowering.
- Water consistently, especially during hot or windy weather, as containers dry out more quickly.
- Remove spent blooms regularly to encourage more flowers and extend the display.



TUI TIP

Group pots of different heights, colours and sizes together for maximum impact and an instant garden makeover.





Check out our beginner gardening hub.

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BEGINNER GARDENING:

If you're new to gardening, you're in the right place.

Every gardener starts somewhere. You don't need a huge backyard, fancy tools or years of experience to grow something. Spring and summer are the perfect seasons to get started, with plenty of crops that grow quickly and reward you with fresh harvests in a matter of weeks..

The secret is to start small, grow what you enjoy, choose easy-growing plants and don't worry about perfection. Even experienced gardeners learn by trial and error!

5 EASY CROPS FOR BEGINNERS

These reliable growers are perfect for first-time gardeners.

Lettuce

Quick growing, productive and ideal for picking leaf by leaf.

Radish

One of the fastest crops you can grow, often ready to harvest in just a few weeks, they bring colour and freshness.

Silverbeet

A hardy performer packed with nutrients that keeps producing for months.

Strawberries

Perfect for pots, hanging baskets and small gardens. They're a favourite with the whole family.

Beans

Easy to grow and surprisingly generous when regularly picked.

BEGINNER PRODUCT PICKS



Pick the Tui specialty mix suited to your crop for the right nutrients from day one.

Apply **Tui Liquid Superfood** weekly to encourage bigger, tastier and more abundant crops throughout the season.



START SMALL, GROW BIG



BEGINNER PLANTER COMBOS

Love fresh veges?

SALAD POT



LETTUCE



SPRING ONION



ROCKET

Fresh salads all summer long

Love cooking?

PIZZA POT



BASIL



CHERRY
TOMATOES



OREGANO

Tasty pizza ingredients from one pot

Love container herbs?

HERB POT



PARSLEY



THYME



CORIANDER

For fragrant, fresh flavour

Love nature?

POLLINATOR POT



MARIGOLD



ALYSSUM



COSMOS
(dwarf)

Attract bees and beneficial insects

REMEMBER EVERY GARDENER HAS FAILS!

Gardening is all about learning as you grow and great gardeners aren't the ones who never fail, they're the ones who keep trying. Every success starts with planting something and seeing what happens. Here are a few learning experiences and laughs shared by our Facebook community:

- I was convinced I'd sown onion seeds in one of my beds. I had a closer look this week and it turns out I've been carefully tending to GRASS for the last few months. **Beth**
- Just planted a row of carrot seed in our vege garden, or maybe not – now that it is up, it could be those wildflower seeds I couldn't find! Never mind. Guess it will be pretty. **Sue**

- Planting lettuce seeds on a windy day. Iceberg lettuces popped up over the lawn! **Amanda**
- When you plant your vegetables in the garden and wait and wait for the carrots to pop up, then realise the seed packet is still sealed! **Bruce**
- I planted potatoes and tomatoes in the same place and couldn't dig up the potatoes when they were ready. **Michelle**
- Sprinkling a whole packet of tomato seeds and then realising I had no space for 1000 tomato plants! **Simone**
- Naming my seedlings with pencil on ice block sticks then laying them beside each plant. Pencil fades and the wind blows sticks away. **Vidette**

THE GARDENER IN ALL OF US!



The Rebel Gardener

Amanda Clark
Palmerston North
@mykiwilife

What type of gardener are you? Always looking to push the boundaries and bend the rules to find what works best in my garden!

My garden: An urban backyard garden consisting of raised beds and containers.

Who inspired you to start gardening? All the mothers in my life who have inspired and motivated me to start my own garden.

What do you love most about gardening? I love the mix of being out in nature and working with my hands. Planting things that feed both us and pollinators that visit. I enjoy broccoli as it's nutrient dense and I love finding uses for as much of the plant as possible.

Top gardening tip:

Never skip fertilising your garden. Feed when you plant and set reminders on your phone to help keep a consistent schedule.



The Cheapskate Gardener

Arthur Erickson Guillen
Auckland
@kalearthurerick

My garden is: a relaxing space where sustainability and food productivity come together to support our household.

What inspired you to start gardening? Among the many things that inspired me, I learned that when you sow a seed, it can grow to a cycle of feeding and nourishing your family while also contributing to nature's health.

What do you love most about gardening: There's nothing more rewarding than enjoying fresh fruit and veges after all the tending that goes into them. I'm loving my blood oranges and daikon radish at the moment.

Top gardening tip:

Cheapskate Tip! Focus on growing the edibles you buy and use most often. That way, your garden becomes your own mini grocery store.



The Binge Gardener

Mel Edwards
Tui Territory Manager
Dunedin

What type of gardener are you? I love a big weekend project then may not be out there for a month!

My garden: It is totally random but has all my favourite things! Proteas (my pride and joy), succulents and Daphne up front. Fruit trees and veggie garden at the back. Plus a fernery and pongas to the sides.

Who inspired you to start gardening? My Mum and her knowledge. She worked in nurseries when I was growing up and I'd work there in the school holidays and loved it.

What do you love most about gardening? The satisfaction of growing and eating your own food. It always tastes ten times better.

Top gardening tip:

Grow what makes you happy and what you like to eat.



The Sow to Eat Gardener

Todd Clarke
Tui Territory Manager
Lower North Island

My garden is: ornamental and a lot of fruit and veges.

What inspired you to start gardening? My grandparents were definitely my inspiration to get into horticulture. After starting my career, I took a break while living in the UK, before returning to horticulture when I moved back to New Zealand.

What do you love most about gardening: Gardening is so rewarding, especially when you start a plant from a seed or a cutting and watch it grow. It's the perfect way to unwind after a busy week. Tomatoes are my favourite to grow, and I always end up with more plants than I need, so friends and family get to enjoy the extras. There's nothing quite like walking out to the greenhouse, picking a fresh tomato, and putting it straight onto your toast!

Top gardening tip:

Water properly, it is the lifeblood of your plants and is also a great idea to give your plants a liquid feed every two weeks.

HEALTHY SOIL, HAPPY GARDEN



Healthy soil is alive! Beneath the surface it's full of goodness, bacteria, fungi, insects and earthworms hard at work. Breaking down old plant material and organic matter, earthworms create channels that help air and water move through the soil making nutrients easier for plants to use. It's a busy, active system beneath the surface and when that life is thriving your plants will thrive too.

Why soil matters

Soil is the foundation of your garden's wellbeing. When it's humming along nicely, everything else becomes easier. Plants grow deeper roots, handle dry periods better and are naturally more resilient.

- Healthy soil holds onto nutrients – less goodness will be lost from the soil when fertilisers have plenty of organic matter to cling to.
- Retains moisture – healthy soil holds water like a sponge.
- Supports stronger plants – deeper roots, faster growth, and better harvests to enjoy.
- Builds garden resilience – strong plants are naturally better able to cope with pests, diseases and dry conditions.



How to improve and maintain soil health

Regularly add compost and sheep pellets

Compost is rich in nutrients and feeds the soil with organic matter, helping it stay crumbly, moist and full of life. Sheep pellets give an extra boost of slow release nutrients that soil organisms and plants can use over time. Adding both **little and often** keeps your soil improving each season and supports strong, steady plant growth.

Keep your soil covered

Bare soil dries out quickly and is exposed to sun, wind and rain. A layer of mulch is a simple way to protect it. You can also use 'living mulch' like low growing herbs, nasturtiums or other groundcover, or leave fallen leaves in place. Anything that covers the surface helps hold moisture, reduce weeds and keep soil life thriving.

Avoid digging too much over time

When you first set up a garden bed or prepare your soil you may need to dig more deeply. As your soil structure improves you'll find you don't need to dig in as much. Too much digging can damage soil structure, disrupt worm tunnels and fungal networks, dry out the soil faster, and bring buried weed seeds to the surface. Gentle loosening and adding compost and sheep pellets is usually all your soil needs.

For the natural nurturer





SEEDLING PLANTING CALENDAR

Across New Zealand there
Use this handy planting cal
fruit and veges. For a full p
discover the interactive pla
<https://tuigarden.co>

VEGETABLE / FRUIT	WHEN TO PLANT							
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Apple					🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱
Asparagus							🌱	🌱 🌱
Basil	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱						
Bean	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱	🌱				🌱
Beetroot	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱	🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱
Blueberry	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱
Blackberry					🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱
Bok choy			🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱
Broad bean			🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱		🌱 🌱 🌱
Broccoli		🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱				🌱 🌱
Brussel Sprouts	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱			🌱 🌱
Cabbage		🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱		🌱 🌱
Capsicum	🌱							🌱 🌱
Carrot	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱			🌱 🌱
Cauliflower			🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱			
Celery	🌱	🌱	🌱 🌱		🌱	🌱		🌱
Chilli								
Chives	🌱 🌱 🌱		🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱	🌱	🌱
Coriander								
Courgette	🌱							
Cucumber	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱					🌱
Eggplant	🌱	🌱						🌱
Feijoa			🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱	🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱
Garlic				🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	
Kale			🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱		
Leeks	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱			🌱 🌱
Lemon			🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱			🌱 🌱 🌱
Lettuce	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱
Lime			🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱			🌱 🌱 🌱
Mandarin			🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱			🌱 🌱 🌱
Mesclun	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱
Mint								
Onion			🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱			🌱 🌱
Orange			🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱			🌱 🌱 🌱
Parsley	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱			
Parsnip			🌱	🌱	🌱	🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱
Passionfruit	🌱 🌱							
Pea				🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱
Pear					🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱
Potato	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱					🌱
Pumpkin & Squash	🌱	🌱						🌱
Radish	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱
Raspberry					🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱
Rocket		🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱
Silverbeet	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱	🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱
Spinach		🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱
Spring onion							🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱
Strawberry				🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱 🌱
Sweetcorn	🌱 🌱 🌱	🌱 🌱						🌱
Tomato	🌱 🌱 🌱							🌱 🌱
Watermelon	🌱 🌱 🌱							

*Harvest times are a guide only and may vary with variety. This calendar is for planting seedlings. If growing from seed

Lift out our handy planting calendar and keep it close by for easy reference!

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are differences in climate and soils.
 endar as a guide to planting common
 planting calendar by region and month,
 planting calendar tool on our website:
 .nz/planting-calendar/



Key:

-  = Northern
-  = Middle
-  = Southern

September	October	November	December	Time to harvest*
  				2-4 years
  	  	  		2 years
 	 	  	  	40-60 days
 	  	  	  	85-110 days
  	  	  	  	90-120 days
  	  	  	  	60-90 days from flower
  	  	  		1 year
  	  			20-45 days
  				85-110 days
 	 	 		60-120 days
 			 	120-140 days
  	  	 		105-140 days
  	  	  	  	80-100 days
  	  	  	 	50-65 days
				90-120 days
  	  	 	 	80-85 days
	  	  	  	100-120 days
  	  	  	  	60-70 days
  	  	  	 	30-45 days
 	  	  	  	60-85 days
 	  	  	  	60-80 days
 	  	  	  	85-110 days
  	  	  		2-3 years
				170 days
				60-70 days
  	  	 	 	160-180 days
  	  	  		2-4 years
 	  	  	  	40-70 days
  	  	  		2-4 years
  	  	  		2-4 years
  	  	  	  	40-60 days
  	  	  	  	60-70 days
  				70-180 days
  	  	  		2-4 years
  	  	  	  	45-85 days
  	 	 	 	120-140 days
	  	  	  	12-18 months
  	 			45-70 days
  				2-4 years
  	  	  	  	90-160 days
  	  	  	  	110-170 days
  	  	  	  	30-40 days
  	  	  		1 year
  	  	  	 	

GARDEN TO TABLE

There's nothing quite like seeing the excitement on a child's face when the seeds they've planted begin to grow. Through our support of the Garden to Table programme in schools across New Zealand, we're helping young gardeners discover the joy of growing their own food, learning valuable skills, and building a lifelong connection with nature.

We're enjoying seeing school gardens thrive with the help of Tui products. At St Mary's Primary School in Tauranga students refreshed their garden beds with **Tui Compost**, **Sheep Pellets** and **Vegetable Mix** before planting winter greens. Just 10 days later with the help of their new greenhouse the seedlings were flourishing, showing the difference healthy soil and a little warmth can make.

Later in winter we also provided **Tui Pea Straw Mulch** to protect young seedlings through the colder months. By helping insulate roots and retain moisture, mulch gives plants the best chance to keep growing year-round.



We're also proud to support Garden to Table through school prize packs each term. One recent winner was Tihiraki North Loburn School, where students are enjoying the hands-on learning in the garden.

Deputy Principal Anna shared:

"How lovely it was to have a delivery of Tui products for our school garden arrive recently! It was exciting to find out that we had won these through your sponsorship of Garden to Table. Our gardener was thrilled – like Christmas in autumn! Our students love being out in the garden learning how to grow and prepare delicious kai for our school."

From preparing garden beds and protecting crops to celebrating harvests, these experiences are helping inspire the next generation of gardeners. They're a great reminder that there's a gardener in all of us, regardless of age, experience or garden size. Sometimes all it takes is planting that first seed and watching it grow. And if the enthusiasm, muddy hands and growing harvests are anything to go by, the future of gardening is looking bright for many Kiwi kids!

TUI SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Look at the two images side by side and find 10 differences between them. Fun to colour too!



SHOP FROM YOUR OWN VEGE PATCH

As the days grow longer and the soil begins to warm, it's time to get your vege garden sorted. Whether you have a dedicated vege patch, raised beds or just a few pots on the patio, spring is the season to sow, plant and prepare for fresh homegrown harvests.

TOP VEGE CROPS

1. Start your spud patch

Potatoes are among the first veges to get underway in spring. Sprout seed potatoes in a cool, dry spot until sprouts are approximately 2-4cm long before planting.

2. Sow a salad patch

Fast-growing salad crops are some of the easiest veges to grow. Lettuces, mesclun blends, spring onions, radishes and celery can all thrive in garden beds, raised planters or containers. Sow little and often for a continuous supply of fresh salad ingredients.

3. Plant root veges

Carrots, beetroot, parsnips and radishes can all be sown directly into the garden. They prefer well worked, crumbly soil that allows roots to develop freely. Thin seedlings as they grow to give crops room to mature into straight, healthy roots.

4. Make room for brassicas

Brassicas such as cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and cavolo nero are spring favourites. Reliable and productive, they'll reward you with fresh harvests over the coming months. Compact varieties are suited to pots and smaller gardens.

5. Get tomatoes started

Tomatoes are stars of the summer vege garden, but spring is where the journey begins. You can get started sowing seeds indoors. Wait until temperatures rise before planting seedlings outdoors.

STEPS TO VEGE SUCCESS

Prep seedlings

Soak seedlings in **Tui Organic Seaweed Plant Tonic** before planting to encourage strong roots and reduce transplant shock.

Build healthy soil

Dig in **Tui Compost** and **Tui Organic Sheep Pellets**, then top with **Tui Vegetable Mix** to create the ideal growing environment.

Feed regularly

Apply **Tui Vegetable Food**, **Tui Potato Food** or **Tui Tomato Food** monthly to keep crops growing strongly.

Supercharge growth

Feed with **Tui Vege & Herb Liquid Superfood** every two weeks for quick results, especially in pots and containers.

TUI TIP

Plant flowers like marigolds among veges to attract bees and other beneficial pollinators.

For the vege enthusiast



FRUIT TREE PRUNING GUIDE

Thoughtful pruning helps keep fruit trees healthy, productive and easy to manage. Alongside regular feeding, mulching and watering, it maintains a strong framework, encourages reliable crops, and makes harvesting and future pruning easier.

PRUNING HYGIENE TIPS

- Prune on a dry day.
- Use clean, sharp secateurs and loppers.
- Seal cuts larger than 2.5cm with pruning paste or water-based paint.
- Clean tools with methylated spirits and wipe down after use to prevent the spread of disease.
- Maintain a preventative spray programme through winter to capture any over-wintering pests and diseases.

TUI TIP

For newly planted trees, spend the first 1-4 years establishing a good shape and framework to support years of healthy growth and harvests.



WHY PRUNE?

Prune with purpose to keep your tree healthy, productive and nicely shaped.

Prune to:

- Maintain the correct shape and size.
- Remove weak, damaged or diseased wood.
- Thin crowded branches to improve airflow and light penetration for ripening fruit.
- Keep fruit within easy reach for harvesting.
- Control vigorous growth and maintain balance.
- Encourage flowering, fruiting and fresh new growth.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT SHAPE

Different fruit trees suit different forms:

- **Open vase:** Common for peaches, nectarines, apricots and plums. An open centre allows light and air to move through the tree.
- **Central leader:** Suits apples and pears, with one main upright trunk and evenly spaced side branches.
- **Bush shape:** Suits feijoas and citrus, helping maintain a compact, productive plant.
- **Espalier or fan-trained:** Ideal for training trees against fences or walls and useful where space is limited

HOW TO PRUNE

Keep these simple tips in mind:

- When shortening branches or reducing the canopy, make cuts just above an outward-facing bud. This encourages new growth to develop away from the centre of the tree, creating an open, balanced shape.
- Make clean cuts on a 45 degree sloped angle so water doesn't pool, reducing the risk of fungal diseases entering the wound.
- When removing an entire branch, cut it back close to the parent branch without leaving a stub, as stubs can become an entry point for pests and diseases.

When to prune fruit tree favourites

FRUIT	WHEN TO PRUNE
Apple	Yearly. Light mid-summer prune and hard prune in winter.
Peach & Nectarine	Late summer after harvest.
Dwarf trees	As and when required to shape.
Plum	Yearly. Late summer after harvest.
Citrus (Lemon, Lime, Grapefruit, Orange)	Trim to maintain shape as needed. Avoid winter pruning in frosty areas.
Feijoa	After fruiting has finished to encourage new growth.

SHARE IN LIANNE'S GARDEN

By Lianne Wilson

Check out our strawberry hub.



As one of Tui's Garden Gurus, Lianne has helped thousands of Kiwi gardeners grow successfully at home. She shares her journey of establishing a new garden after a recent move, embracing the opportunities and lessons that come with starting fresh.

Tell us a little about your garden:

We have downsized to a smaller coastal property with sandy soil. I feel like I'm learning to garden again, when to water (often), when to feed (all of the time) and adding as much organic matter to the soil as possible! My goal is year-round colour - I love adding seasonal flowers to the garden and pots, and embrace easy care options including bromeliads, gardenias and vireya rhododendrons. I enjoy continuous seasonal harvests from the raised garden bed, and my favourite fruit trees including persimmon, feijoa and lemon. I also have special legacy plants in pots from my grandmother and mother-in-laws garden.

How did you start gardening?

My grandparents were keen gardeners, they had a large garden with cacti, roses and proteas, a veggie garden, and a glasshouse full of bromeliads. My grandfather once bought me a tuber rose wrapped in sawdust to plant, along with erlicheer daffodils. I love the challenge of growing through the seasons. Going out into the garden every morning to see how everything is growing and creating a mental list of things that need to be done or changed.

What are some of your proudest gardening successes?

I'm still learning, but success is flowers to pick every day, homegrown fruit through the seasons and something out of the veggie garden all year round.

Why do strawberries deserve a place in every Kiwi garden?

They say summer in every way. My grandchildren love picking them, even when green!



What's your favourite way to grow strawberries?

I feel the best way is in the garden if you have space. I have them growing in 30cm pots due to limited space.

What are your top three strawberry tips?

Consistent watering throughout the growing season, regular feeding every 1-2 weeks with a liquid fertiliser once fruit starts setting, and protection from the birds.

What are the biggest mistakes gardeners make when growing strawberries?

Not planting enough plants for the household. You need at least five plants per person! Prepare the soil well by digging in generous amounts of compost then plant into Tui Strawberry Mix.

What's your favourite way to enjoy eating homegrown strawberries?

I make a pavlova roulade which has a strawberry coulis mixed with cream in the centre - delish. Picked straight from the plant is pretty good too.

Finish this sentence: "Anyone can be a gardener because..."

You don't need a large space to be a gardener, and there is no right or wrong way. Just start.

For the juicy berry grower



JENNA'S SMALL SPACE GARDEN

By Jenna Zanchettin @jennagardens

Check out our tomato hub.



Meet Jenna, who proves you don't need a big backyard to grow something delicious. From clever vertical growing in her small urban garden to homegrown cherry tomatoes destined for pasta sauce, Jenna shares how she makes the most of every bit of space.

Tell us a little about your garden:

My garden is a small urban space, so every square metre has to earn its place. I love proving that you don't need a huge backyard to grow loads of food. With a bit of planning and some vertical growing, you can fit far more into a small garden than most people think.

How did you start gardening?

My grandparents were gardeners, so I've been around plants my whole life. I started working in horticulture at 16 and haven't left! Once gardening gets you, it's hard to walk away. There's always something new to learn, whether it's new plants, new products, or new techniques.

What are some of your proudest gardening successes?

Hands down, my watermelons that I grew from seed last year! I was ridiculously proud of those. My tomatoes, dwarf fruit trees, and investing in self-watering garden beds.

If you had to choose, what's your favourite thing to grow and why?

Baby bush beans. I could eat them every day! They take up little room, you can succession plant them, and I find they hold on the plant better than climbing beans. They're productive, easy to grow, and perfect for small gardens.

Despite not being a big tomato eater, what made you decide to start growing tomatoes?

I love pasta, and pasta needs sauce! Cooked tomatoes are the only way I'll eat them. Hamilton has such a fantastic climate for tomatoes once the frosts have finished.



They're such a rewarding crop because you get to enjoy every stage, from the lush foliage, to the flowers, then the tiny green fruit, and finally months of ripe cherry tomatoes.

You built an impressive tomato frame last year. Can you tell us about it?

Honestly, I think I've cracked the code! All you need are sturdy stakes, galvanised mesh, and something solid like a fence to reinforce it. If you've got a sunny fence line in a small garden, it's the perfect place to grow tomatoes vertically. I train the plants on the mesh almost like an espalier, so they naturally weave themselves through it. In winter the frame can be reused for peas.

Finish this sentence: "Anyone can be a gardener because..."

Your garden doesn't judge you or talk back. There's a plant out there for everyone, no matter your space or experience.

For the tomato whisperer





LEMON PASSIONFRUIT BARS

Recipe by Holly  @madebyhollys

These bars are a real crowd pleaser and so simple to make. A crunchy shortbread base with a tangy topping. If you're lucky to have enough passionfruit, these are a great way to use frozen pulp later in the year.

Ingredients

Shortbread base

- ⅔ cup icing sugar
- 1 ½ cups plain flour
- 1 tbs lemon zest
- 150g salted butter, melted

Topping

- 395g can condensed milk
- 5 egg yolks
- 2 lemons, zested
- ½ cup fresh lemon juice
- Pulp of 2 large passionfruit

Method

1. Line a 20cm x 30cm baking tin with baking paper. Preheat the oven to 160°C fan bake.
2. For the shortbread base, combine all the ingredients in a bowl until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs then press into lined baking tin. Bake for 10 minutes or until just golden. Remove from the oven and set aside.
3. In a bowl, whisk together the remaining ingredients until the mixture starts to thicken, then tap the bowl on the bench to release air bubbles. Pour over the shortbread base and spread evenly.
4. Return to the oven to bake for another 15 minutes or until slightly firm to the touch. Remove from the oven and allow to cool. Refrigerate for 2 hours to set before cutting.



PICKLED CUCUMBERS

Recipe by Ali  @ali_bahmad

Ingredients

- 2 Lebanese cucumbers
- 250ml apple cider vinegar
- 350ml water
- 4 teaspoons cane sugar
- 2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoon mustard seeds
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 chilli

Method

1. Slice the cucumbers into thin disks and place them in a jar.
2. Place vinegar, water, sugar, salt, and mustard seeds in pot and bring to the boil. Stir until dissolved.
3. Pour the hot pickling liquid over the cucumber slices in the jar. Submerge them completely. Top with chilli and bay leaves.
4. Cover the jar tightly, store in the fridge. Once cool, enjoy them on salads and sandwiches or part of any meal.



Wherever you are on your gardening journey, Tui has the right advice and the right products to help you keep growing. Because if you grow something, care for something, or just give it a go, you're a gardener.

