

Ready set...Garden!

Enjoy life from your garden

The days are growing longer and warmer and our attention turns to continuing a bountiful fruit and vegetable harvest and for glorious flowers to fill garden beds and brighten every room.

Mound up the soil around potatoes as the leaves appear through the soil and stake tomatoes up. It's also time to plant beans, beetroot, capsicums, chillies, zucchinis, cucumbers, eggplants, spinach, sweetcorn, tomatoes, basil, mint, coriander, parsley, rosemary, sage, thyme. Blueberries and strawberries can be planted now too.

For a great to do list based on your local conditions, go to;

<http://www.gogardening.co.nz/to-do/7-11-1106/>

Perennials

Through ever changing trends in gardening, perennial gardens prevail and continue to hold our wonder with their beauty and constant colour changes and textures through the seasons. Here are a few of our favourites.

Meconopsis betonicifolia and M. betonicifolia alba

The Blue Himalayan Poppy is a stunning plant for a shady, moist and free draining spot. A rosette of furry leaves surround a striking vivid blue flower. Plants grow to 1 metre and are deciduous. Divide and replant in fresh soil every 3 years. Very hardy to cold and frost. Meconopsis betonicifolia alba offers a white variety.



Blue Mountain Lavender

Blue Mountain Lavender comes from the Blue Mountain Nurseries breeding programme (Plant variety rights 1283). This is a beautiful compact lavender with attractive grey foliage and stunning deep blue flowers showing throughout summer. It's an ideal cut flower, great in low hedges and is a popular garden decoration. Plant in a sunny position. Height to 0.75cm.



Gypsophilla Bristol Fairy

One of the most widely-used cut flowers, gypsophila paniculata offers a cloudlike white show of tiny double flowers and is ideal in a summer border. Plants form a bushy, upright mound that do well with good drainage and full sun. Remove spent flowers to encourage repeat blooming in the autumn. Drought tolerant once established. Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.



Azalea Blue Mountain Pink Chiffon

Another winner from the Blue Mountain breeding programme overseen by Denis Hughes. Pink Chiffon displays a mass of double pink flowers in November on a compact bush. Best planted with shelter from the wind. Scented. Height to 1.5m. Deciduous.



Rhododendron Hachmann's Rosita

A beautiful rose pink flower with delicate yellow spotting in November. Height 1metre. Evergreen.



Rhododendron Mrs Tom Lowinsky

Mrs Tom Lowinsky remains one of the most popular rhododendron hybrids. This late blooming cultivar has received many awards including the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit. The rhododendron bears showy spherical clusters of pale orchid-pink flowers in late spring, fading to white throughout the summer. The wide flaring funnel-shaped blooms have an unusual brownish orange blotch on their upper lobe held in trusses of up to 14 flowers. This dense, rounded, evergreen shrub with large glossy dark green leaves works well in shrub plantings and mixed borders.

Like most rhododendrons, 'Mrs. Tom H. Lowinsky' performs well over chilly winters, moderate summers, partial shade, and highly organic, well-drained, acid soil. It is one of the more relative heat-tolerant rhododendrons. Plant it shallowly and mulch well to conserve moisture and suppress weeds. Prune after the flowers fade and before new flower buds form.



Rhododendron Percy Wiseman

Another plant with the Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit. Elegant trumpet shaped peach-coloured blossoms appear midseason on this very free-flowering and compact evergreen shrub. Each large, globular truss contains 13 to 15 flowers that fade gradually with age to a soft creamy white with a yellow throat.

A vigorous rounded and compact grower to about 1.5 metres. Percy Wiseman prefers moist, well-drained organic acidic soil and does best in partial shade but it can withstand full sun in cooler climates. A fairly sheltered location will protect it from harsh winters, sun and winds.



Rhododendron Lalique

A New Zealand hybrid with wide frilled flowers in conical trusses of white, tinged delicate pink and lilac in October and November. Foliage is mid-green, dense, long and glossy. A vigorous wide spreading shrub to 3m x 5m. Sweetly scented.



Rhododendron and Azaleas

For a full range of these beautiful plants, visit the shop or shop online at www.bmn.co.nz