

## Ready set...Garden!

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### Enjoy life from your garden

Our August newsletter had three reasons why you should enjoy life from your garden for your health and wellbeing- here are another few reasons why it's great to invest in your garden.



Attractive and inviting landscaping with shrubs, colourful plants and trees provides the finishing touch for any home and makes a huge difference in the curb appeal of your property. As your landscaping grows, so will your property's resale value! When investing in your property, indoor outdoor flow adds the most value<sup>1</sup> so choosing garden materials and furnishings that are compatible with both areas is important. It's generally recommended that up to 10 percent of a property's value should be spent on landscaping.<sup>2</sup>



Winter is a great time to do some garden maintenance and after a good tidy up, look at any gaps in planting that need to be dealt with. Here are some really simple tips to help you revitalize your garden and add value to your home without spending a fortune.

- Work with what you have- remove tired looking plants and re-plant with plants that suit the environment you have. Go online to [www.bmn.co.nz](http://www.bmn.co.nz) to see what plants will adapt well to your conditions. Blue Mountain Nurseries also offer a garden design service.
- Plant trees for screening or privacy. Trees are an important part of any garden providing sculptural balance, focal points, structure, an ever changing view through the season's and visual interest.
- Create a stylish, welcoming entrance using feature pots and great looking plants to make a big impact at a low price.



### Trees – the Kowhai corridor

One of the most rewarding tree breeding programmes run by Blue Mountain Nurseries has been the Kowhai nature corridor programme in association with West Otago Lions. Denis Hughes of Blue Mountain Nurseries has spent much time sourcing, gathering and maintaining the collection of Kowhai's (Sophora) used in the nature corridor. Plants have been sourced from all over New Zealand as well as Chile and Lord Howe Island. The planting of over 200 Kowhai has formed a corridor from the Blue Mountains to nearby domestic gardens, farms and Blue Mountain Nurseries. With land becoming fragmented due to agricultural and forestry pressures, a nature corridor can assist in stabilizing soils, conserving water and providing a food source. Bell birds, wax eyes, tuis and kereru (wood pigeons) already feed on kowhai plants held in stock at the nursery. The planting has now created a food source for native nectar eating birds providing food for up to 9 months of the year and it is hoped that this will help support greater numbers of birds able to feed and live in the region. The various species planted have been carefully catalogued and the locations recorded so that plants can be reproduced or selected for future plantings in the district or nationally.



<sup>1</sup> <http://buildandrenovate.co.nz/landscape-planning-adds-value/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.greengables.co.nz/category/landscaping/>

# Hellebores



Just when you think you can't stand much more of the grey winter, the hellebores unfurl their petals heralding spring! With their delicate nodding flowers, the "winter rose" is a classic beauty in the garden offering delicate single or double flowers. They are not an "instant" colour option in the garden taking 3 – 4 years to bulk up but they are definitely well worth the wait. And if you're a "plant-a-holic"- (the botanical equivalent of a "foodie")- they are a must have. They are easy care. You can lift and divide future plants with a wide array of soft pinks, whites, purples, greens and reds with some new yellows entering the marketplace. Try floating hellebore

blooms in a bowl of water for a stunning arrangement. Hellebores are a hardy perennial toughing it out in the frosts and cold of winter and do best in a moist area offering rich organic matter and dappled light. Go on line at [www.bmn.co.nz](http://www.bmn.co.nz) to order these charming perennials.



## Pseudowintera Winter Fire

This native horopito, also known as the pepper tree has very distinctive dark bark and broad round leaves that appear yellow-green with dramatic blotches of red. It is widely regarded as one of the best shrubs for winter colour. The leaves of this evergreen shrub change to a deeper more intense red in the cold or in sun. Dainty yellow-green flowers are followed by dark red berries. Hardy and growing in both sun or shade, *Pseudowintera colorata*

Winter Fire is a slow growing shrub that will reach 1m x1m over 10 years. Being slow growing and compact, it will do well in containers but ensure conditions are not too wet, or dry.

## Ask Denis



Every issue of the Blue Mountain Nursery newsletter, Denis Hughes will choose a "plant wish-list" question from one of our readers. If you have a question or you're looking for a plant for a particular spot contact us on;

Phone: 03-2048-250 web: [www.bmn.co.nz](http://www.bmn.co.nz)



<https://www.facebook.com/BlueMountainNurseriesTapanui/?pnref=lhc>

**Q** How do I plant snowdrops?

**A** Plant your favourite snowdrops during late winter and early spring in pots, beds, borders or naturalise under trees and shrubs in dappled light. Wait until the current flowers fade but the leaves are still green and vigorous. Prepare your planting area by digging the site over and providing compost. Dig up a clump, separate the bulbs and offset bulbs (new bulbs attached to the mother bulb) and immediately replant them. Plant the snowdrops pointy nose up and flat base down into the prepared soil in a moist but well drained woodland setting. Ensure bulbs are planted at the same depth as they were growing before they were lifted from the ground – the point where the green leaves start to turn yellow should be level with the soil surface.

