



CANTERBURY ORGANIC NEWSLETTER

September/October 2017

Welcome to this edition of Canterbury Organics Newsletter.

Spring has sprung and the clocks have gone forward and I am sure everyone is extremely busy planting, I know I am. The greenhouse is full with new seedlings coming up all ready to be moved out into the garden and cuttings that need potting up and more seeds to be planted and potatoes to be put in.

I think spring is the busiest season, juggling sowing seeds, transplanting, weeding, fertilising, making new garden beds, tidy the perennial herbs by giving them a chop back or sorting out the roses, the list is endless!

A few pictures from my garden showing spring has come and the growing season is on its way!



Spring Planting

For those of you who are like me just home gardeners and wondering what to plant here are a few ideas. It's a good time to start of some salad crops, lettuce, rocket or even some microgreens. Don't sow all the seeds, spread this out so you have a continuity of harvest. Now is the time to get your corn, peas, carrots, beetroot and brassicas planted and don't forget to get your potatoes in! These are all assisted by companion plantings such as calendula, borage which the bees love and any other herbs or flowers you might like to plant around your vegetables, it all helps.

If you have berries you will have noticed that they are starting to get new growth so hopefully indicating berries for Christmas as it is only 12 weeks away! If you are planting new berries get them in the ground now, or if you want, these can be put into tubs and containers, just make sure they are in a nice sunny spot and have good organic fertile soil. As the weather warms make sure they are kept well-watered. If you are planting Blueberries they like their soil to be slightly acid so put some pine needles under them or coffee grounds.

Organic Farm NZ

I attached the newsletter as a separate attachment, recently sent through from Organic Farm NZ covering information from the AGM held in July

Kaiapoi Community Food Forest

After the 2011 earthquakes the Government made voluntary offers to purchase around 1000 of Kaiapoi/Pines and Kairake Beach residential properties. Through community consultation it was decided to use some of the Government owned land to create a food forest and a few weeks ago the community group set up to run the food forest had their first open planting day where they planted over 300 hundred trees berries and plants. The idea is that a community forest provides an abundance of food for residents and visitors to gather – fruits, vegetables, herbs and medicinal plants by way of a layered permaculture companion planting system.

Have a look at their website www.kai.net.nz

Events

Vegan Expo



The Vegan Expo is a Big Day Out where all are welcome to come and share a day with us, enjoy great vegan food, watch top veggie chefs display their cooking secrets, learn about vegan living and enjoy celebrating cruelty-free pro-planet living with Christchurch's vegan and vegetarian community. Whether you are vegan or vegetarian or not, you will love the variety of foods and entertainment on offer.

Christchurch's Vegan Expo will be held on Sunday October 8th at the New Zealand Air Force Museum in Wigram from 10am until 4.30pm. General admission \$5.00 under 12 year of age free. <http://www.vegetarianchristchurch.org.nz/events-tauwhainga/expo/>

That's all for now, a short newsletter this month as everyone is busy planting and preparing for summer!

If you have anything to add to our next edition please contact me at admin@canterburyorganic.org.nz

With Regards

Julie Powell-Booth