

# Central's Tips

## December 2022



### The fruit and vegetable garden

- **Assisting eggplant flowers to pollinate** – use a small paintbrush to transfer pollen between flowers. Eggplant flowers are pale mauve and droop downwards, so they're often overlooked by the bees
- **A regular squirt of water** over the bean plants is said to increase bean production. Picking regularly also encourages a bumper crop
- **It's all in the staking** – plants such as beans, tomatoes and cucumbers benefit from good climbing supports through the summer
- **Find out if your potatoes are ready** by gently excavating from the edge of the mound. Early cropping potatoes are generally ready from now onwards
- **Young citrus tree leaves curling up?** An infestation of aphids on the backs of leaves can be dealt with by manually wiping them off, or by spraying with a fish-based oil spray such as Aquaticus 'Glow'
- **Leek plants are available in seedling punnets or bundles.** Separate them carefully, then plant each one in a 10cm deep hole (use a pencil to create the hole). Don't fill with soil, regularly watering will gradually fill it in

### The ornamental garden

- **Weeding is a great way** to tidy the garden up for summer, giving space for plants to grow and for mulch to be spread
- **Avoid clipping plants** like hedges and topiaries from now on as freshly exposed foliage will burn in the summer sun
- **Flowering agapanthus** should not be left to go to seed. These plants colonise easily in Auckland at the expense of other more desirable options
- **Summer prune** the wisteria, rambling roses and jasmine to maintain control as they grow extensively in the heat
- Plant **carpet thymes, prostrate muehlenbeckias** and **coprosmas** as hardy groundcovers to keep the weeds at bay
- **Heading away?** Move pots and baskets into shadier areas to reduce their water consumption
- **The scent of summer** – climbing star jasmine, bushes of philadelphus and michelia – or add a favourite rose – these all offer wafts of perfume around the summer garden

## Project for December

### Paving the way to an al fresco Christmas

The Feinwerk range of pavers are thinner and lighter to work with than most other concrete pavers. They also have a very high strength rating, making them our most popular paver for several years now. Lay a courtyard for Christmas and enjoy the outdoor experience.

To see the Feinwerk paver range visit [centrallandscapes.co.nz](http://centrallandscapes.co.nz)

