

# Central's Tips

## August 2022



Plant seed potatoes, sow summer vegetable seeds, stake broad beans and liquid feed the herb patch. A hedge of rosemary in the edible garden looks great now.

Prune hydrangeas and lime or 'blue' the plants to assist flower colour. Move potted bulbs into the sun, plant drought tolerant proteas and leucadendrons and use a fast-acting fertiliser on tired lawns.



### In the veggie patch

- **Plant sprouted seed potatoes** by digging a trench and cover lightly with soil. As the foliage grows up, hill up the soil – that's every few weeks
- **Sow tomato, capsicum and zucchini seeds** indoors or under cover. With winter seed-sowing a heat pad can help germination along
- **Stake up broad beans** so the spring winds don't knock them flat. Remember, there's quite a long wait between the flowers dying off and the pods growing – patience rewards the gardener
- In go the **bee-attracting flowers**: calendulas, poppies, bergamots, and lavenders are loved by the bees and they'll be flowering at a similar time to the edibles
- Thyme, bay, parsley and rosemary can take a hammering from the herb scissors over winter, so **apply a liquid fertiliser** to encourage them to take off when the weather warms up
- **Upright rosemary varieties make great hedges** and the blue flowers brighten the winter vegetable garden
- **Control slugs and snails** to stop them feasting on your seedlings

### The rest of the garden

- **Prune hydrangeas and make sure you get the right flower colour:** add lime to encourage pink flowers, or Aluminium Sulphate for blue flowers. If you are planting white flowered types avoid full sun – they look best in dappled shade
- **Place pots of sprouted spring flowering bulbs** in sunny areas to make the most of their upcoming displays
- Late August is a great time to **begin planting hedges and perennial borders** for the summer garden. Mulch after planting
- **Flowering camellias** brighten the last of the winter days, but be sure to clean up fallen petals to avoid spreading camellia petal blight
- **The South African plants that give good winter colour include proteas and leucadendrons.** As our summers get a bit warmer, these plants seem to ignore a drought and cope in our Auckland clay

### Lawns

- **A gentle but effective early fertiliser** for yellowing or sad looking lawns is Prolawn All Purpose
- **Avoid mowing very wet lawns** until they have dried out a little

## Project for August

### Tree planting season.

Dig a planting hole to at least the depth of the tree's rootball and twice the width. For hard, compacted soil, add a handful of gypsum in the hole. Mix the existing soil with Garden Mix or Nutra Soil and carefully place around the rootball, then heel in firmly. Trees and shrubs should be staked in the first few years.

For all the products you'll need for planting new trees visit [www.centrallandscapes.co.nz](http://www.centrallandscapes.co.nz)

