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# January Diary 2012



January in New Zealand is known as High Summer or Mid Summer. Sunlight, day length, warmth and growth rates have all reached their peak and begin to simmer and percolate.

Weather extremes can produce very dry and/or hot conditions; or cool and pleasant but mostly dry 'continental' summers; and in other years humid, warm, wet and tropical all dependent upon the prevailing wind direction that year.

In bountiful years, many gardens are looking great. Tropical plants burst into bloom and flourish. Flowering gardens often reach their peak; fruits and vegetables are abundant. This is when all the planning, preparations, care and devotion pay off in the peak rewards of glorious summer floral displays and bountiful harvests.

This seasonal turning point is also a time to reflect over what worked and didn't, and to start planning and preparations for the Autumn and Winter Gardens ahead and beyond to next Spring.

Gardeners in the Northern Hemisphere

also pass a seasonal transition, which for them will a time to dream, plan and start early preparations for the spring growing season that will soon return to the warmest latitudes.

Yet this tropical transitional time is when long summer days subtly begin to shorten. Plants will sense the change in shifting sunlight long before people will.

## FLOWER GARDENS

### Flowers in Bloom:

Here's a partial list of all the multitude of things that are blooming somewhere in the High Summer Gardens of New Zealand. These lists include a variety of groundcovers, shrubs, trees, vines; annuals, biennials and perennials; bulbs, rhizomes roots and tubers that you could have flowering in your garden right now.

The most impressive additions to this months' list are the many tropical-flowering species like Bougainvillea, Gardenia, Jacaranda, Hoya, Hibiscus, Mandevilla, Plumeria (Frangipani), Stephanotis and many more.

The extent of these 'flowering' lists in unapologetically lengthy; this is why New

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Zealand is considered such a remarkable country for gardening, and how it earned its reputation for being called Godzone Garden Country.

While no one garden probably has all of these plants growing and flowering simultaneously, many of New Zealand's Botanical Gardens would have impressive displays featuring most of them.

If all these gardens were considered as one combined countrywide garden stretching from the tropical North to the Alpine and cool temperate regions of the South, the very extent of what can be grown is astounding especially at this wonderful moment in the seasons known as High Summer! Just imagine what a great flower garden you could have!

#### **Groundcovers, Shrubs, Trees and Vines in Bloom in Mid Summer:**

Abutilon (Chinese Lantern/Flowering Maple), Agapanthus (Lily of the Nile), Agave (Century Plant), Albizzia (Silk Tree/Mimosa), Alectryon (Titoki), Anigozanthus (Kangaroo Paw), Antigonon (Coral Vine), Ardisia (Coral Ardisia), Arthropodium (N.Z. Rock Lily/Reinga Lily), Astartea, Azalea (summer flowering hybrid species), Baeckea (Heath Myrtle), Banksia (Australian Honey Myrtles), Bauhinia (Orchid Tree), Beaufortia (Swamp Bush Myrtle), Beloporone (Shrimp or Lobster Plant), Berberidopsis (Montane Tape Vine/Coral Plant), Beschorneria (Mexican Wonder Plant), Bomarea (Climbing Alstroemaria), Bougainvillea, Bouvardia (Scented Bouvardia), Brachychiton (late flowering trees), Brunfelsia (Yesterday, Today Tomorrow), Buddleia (Butterfly Bush), Caesalpinia (Bird of Paradise Bush), Calliandra

(Inga/Snowflake Acacia/Brazilian Flame Bush), Callistemon (Bottlebrush), Calluna (Heather), Calocephalus (Silver Threads), Campsis (Chinese Trumpet Vine), Canna, Cantau (Sacred Flower of the Incas), Carissa (Natal Plum), Caryopteris (Blue Spirea/Bluebeard), Cavendishia, Ceratopetalum (Sydney Christmas Bush), Ceratostigma (Chinese Plumbago), Cestrum, Choisya (Mexican Orange Blossom), Cistus (Rock Rose), Clematis (summer flowering hybrids), Clerodendrum (Blue Butterfly Bush), Clethra (Lily of the Valley Tree), Clianthus N.Z. Kaka Beak), Clytostoma (Painted Trumpet Climber), Convolvulus (Creeping Morning Glory/Morning Glory Vine), Cordyline (N.Z. Cabbage Tree), Cortaderia (Pampas Grass), Cortalaria (Rattle Pod), Cotinus (Smoke Bush), Crotalaria (Canary Bird Flower), Cunonia (Butter Knife Bush), Cuphea (Cigarette Plant/False Heather), Cyperus (Papyrus), Daboecia (Irish Heath), Dais (Pompon Tree), Daubentonia (Brazilian Glory Pea), Doryanthus (Spear Lily), Dracaena (Dragon Tree and species), Dracophyllum (Grass Tree), Duranta (Sky Flower/Pigeon Berry), Epacris (Australian Fuschia Heath), Erica (Heath species), Erythrina (Brazilian Coral Tree), Eucalyptus (Australian Gum species), Eugenia (Acmena/Monkey Apple/Lilly Pilly), Euryops (Golden Paris Daisy), Feijoa (Pineapple Guava), Fremontia (Flannel Bush), Fuchsias, Gardenia, Grevillea species (Snail Flower), Hebe species (Veronica), Heteromeles (Christmas Berry/California May Bush), Hibbertia (Guinea Flower/ Guinea Gold Vine), Hibiscus, Hoheria (Lace Bark), Hoya, Hydrangea, Hymenosporum (Australian Frangipani), Hypericum

species(St. John's Wort),Ipomoea (Morning Glory Vines), Jacaranda, Jacobinia (Brazilian Plume Flower), Jasminum azoricum and species (Azores Jasmine and species), (Koelreuteria (Golden Rain Tree), Lagerstroemia (Crepe Myrtle), Lagunaria (Norfolk Island Hibiscus/Pyramid Tree), Lantana, Lapageria (Chilean Bell Flower Vine), Lathyrus (Argentine Pea Climber), Lavandula (Lavender), Leonotis (Lions Tail), Leptospermum (late-flowering species) (Tea Tree/Manuka),Lippia (Lemon Verbena), Ligustrum (Privet species), Lithospermum (Blue Carpet), Lomatia (Silky Lomatia), Lonicera (Honeysuckle), Lophomyrtus (N.Z. Myrtle or Ramarama), Magnolia species, Mandevilla (Chilean Jasmine), Manettia Climber, Melaleuca species (Honey Myrtle/Paper Bark),Melia (Bead Tree/Indian Lilac),Metrosideros N.Z. Pohutukawa/N.Z. Christmas Tree and climbers),Monstera (Fruit Salad Plant/Swiss Cheese Vine), Musa (Banana), Myoporum (Ngaio), Nandina (Chinese Sacred Bamboo), Nerium (Oleander), Ochna (Fun Shrub), Olearia (N.Z. Holly and species), Ophiopogon (Mondo Grass species), Orphium (Sticky Flower), Osbeckia, Pandorea (Pandora/Bower Vines), Parahebe, Passiflora Passion Fruit Vine), Pennisetum (Fountain Grass), Phaedoranthus (Mexican Blood Flower), Phaenocoma (Pink Everlasting Flower), Phaseolus (Snail Flower),Philadelphus (Mock Orange late blooming species),Phormium (N.Z.Flax), Pimelia (Rice Flower), Plumbago (Cape Plumbago),Plumeria (Frangipani),Podranea (Port St. John's Creeper), Polygonum (Knot Weed species), Pomaderris (N.Z. Kumeraho), Potenilla (Cinquefoil), Punica (Pomegranate), Raphiolepis (Indian

Hawthorn, late flowering species),Rhododendron (mostly Vireya hybrids and species), Ricinus (Castor Oil Plant), Romneya (California Tree Poppy), Rosmarinus Rosemary), Russelia (Coral Bush), Santolina (Lavender Cotton), Schefflera (N.Z. Patete, Umbrella Plant), Schinus (Pepper Tree), Schizocentron (Spanish Shawl), Sedum species, Senecio (Dusty Miller species), Serissa (Tree of a Thousand Stars), Solandra (Cup of Gold/Golden Chalice Vine),Solanum (Flowering Nightshade, shrub and vining species), Sollya (Bluebell Creeper), Spartium (Spanish Broom), Spirea species (tall white and dwarf 'red' flowering species),Strelitzia (Bird of Paradise), Stephanotis (Madagascar Jasmine climber), Strobilanthes (Goldfussia), Sutherlandia (Duck Plant, Balloon Pea), Symphoricarpos (Snowberry), Tamarix (Flowering Cypress), Thunbergia (Black Eyed Susan, Golden Glory, Scarlet Clock, Sky Flower vines), Trachelospermum (Star Jasmine), Tritonia (Queensland Box), Tweedia (Heavenly Blue), Vitex (Chaste Tree, N.Z. Puriri), Yucca, Zauschneria (California Fuchsia/Humming Bird Flower) and more locally.

### **Classic High Summer Flowers in Bloom Now:**

This list includes an assortment of annual, biennial and perennial flowers grown in New Zealand gardens that could be found in flower in High Summer:

Agapanthus, Agave (Century Plant), Ageratum, Alyssum, Angelica, Anigozanthus (Kangaroo Paw), Aquilegia, Argentine Pea(Perennial Lathyrus), Asclepias (Butterfly Flower), Bellis perennis (English Daisy), Calendula, Calliopsis, Candytuft (Iberis),