

Authors introduction

An Introduction to Your Monthly Gardening Handbook



New Zealand is a clean, green, garden paradise. One of the last and best in the world. We are blessed here in New Zealand with one of the most remarkable climates of any country on earth.

It often takes a prolonged overseas experience for most Kiwis to realize that the climate, land and lifestyle we so take for granted is what people in other nations would consider to be nearly ideal: a true paradise when compared to the extremes experienced in other parts of the world. It is for this very reason that per head of population New Zealand has one of the highest levels of truly talented creative gardeners to be found anywhere. Gardening has become part of our national character.

It sets us apart and helps to develop and reinforce our high level of environmental awareness and sophistication. So if you aren't yet a gardener, give it a go. It will do you, your family, the community and the country a world of good. And if you are already stuck into the garden, congratulations!

You represent a better, more advanced alternative within modern living. And your efforts, even if they are only in your back yard, collectively are helping to inspire and lead the world into a cleaner,

greener new age. If you are new to gardening or if you are encouraging a young mind to love nature start small and simple. This way you can focus attention on learning enough about a few plants to give yourself a better chance of success.

An initial small success generates pride, excitement and a desire to learn more so can make a garden lover for life. While a big failure early on can stop an individual from ever trying again and ultimately lose a chance to experience one of the truly heavenly pleasures of life on earth.

When one remembers the classic words, "We are closest to God in the garden", we start to realize the tragic significance that such a failure can have upon one's future, or how by simply planting a few seedlings for the first time one can take a few real steps toward paradise.

Over the years my experience in the garden has brought me to the understanding that the earth is a living organism, a timeless master and we are its pets.

This loving earth doesn't really need us, yet we are totally dependent on it for everything. Like all good pets, we've got to understand and obey the rules of the house. No longer are we little puppies allowed to soil our bedding and rip up the furniture.

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Our survival comes down to something as simple as personal hygiene on a collective, global scale. As we come of age as a civilization we either understand and obey, or we are put down like so many species before us. We are not saving the earth, we must save ourselves!

One of the easiest ways to serve the Living Earth is in the garden, which is a little piece of nature. The earth contains all the secrets and cycles that we know as life. So to garden is to interact with this great power which will ultimately put us on the path to understanding the secrets of life, for life unfolds daily there in the garden. And, with time, becomes easy to understand. Understanding matures into wisdom which ultimately brings reward, your own paradise. And, collectively, if we all do our part those small bits of paradise start to merge, eventually creating a heaven on earth.

If you sincerely want to improve the quality of your life and those you love ... If you want your children to grow up remembering that you helped them create a world that they could enjoy living in.

If you are searching for a meaningful, constructive way to build a cleaner, greener, environmentally balanced world or if you want better health, are trying to overcome loneliness, depression, stress, or just want a thoroughly enjoyable hobby to fill your spare time. Then it's time for you to discover gardening.

Gardening will give you something special! Surely it takes work, sometimes lots of hard work, but none of life's

lessons are learned without determined effort. But stick with it!

The greatest rewards come to those who consistently demonstrate true devotion and dedication to the garden. Over time these individuals gain such wisdom that they truly become "living treasures".

The influence of such individuals through their collective contributions ultimately uplifts the overall development of the community, leading mankind toward a much better tomorrow.

A garden handbook on its own is not going to turn you into a living treasure but this book is meant to inspire you to take a few more steps in the right direction. The rest is up to you!

What is offered here are simple, easily understood monthly guidelines and snippets of information which only scratch the surface of all the exciting knowledge I'd like to share with you. Perhaps what you learn here will inspire you into the pursuit of further knowledge.

The serious gardener will want to purchase one or more good gardening books to use in combination with this diary. In this way you can expand your knowledge very quickly.

The Readers Digest illustrated Guide to Gardening, the Yates Garden Guide, and Yates Garden Doctor are all excellent books to serve this purpose. And even if you are on a tight budget, don't forget that most local libraries carry a wide range of reference books on gardening. But whatever reference sources you

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choose, be certain they are written for southern hemisphere gardening otherwise you'll be planting everything at the wrong time!

The best way to use this book is as a handy reference to remind you of the various gardening activities that occur through the year. Be aware that this is only a general guide to New Zealand gardening. The gardener will want to take into account local and seasonal climatic variations that can affect the timing of gardening activities. These variations can be recorded in the convenient spaces provided within each monthly calendar.

To make the handbook really work for you now and especially in the future, record all your gardening activities: dates of sowings, transplanting, harvest, and flowering; problems with disease/insects and methods that worked to control them as well as those that didn't. Also record daily weather statistics and patterns: rainfall, storms, wind, cloudiness, temperature, frosts, first summer/winter weather, etc. Don't forget to make notes about new discoveries: plants, seeds, vegetables new to you; an old fashioned cure-all remedy passed on to you by a helpful old-timer, a really effective fertiliser combination; a new way to complete a garden job more effectively, etc.

To record successfully make this a simple part of your daily routine. Once recorded over a year your diary becomes your own personal garden guide that will be an invaluable reference. When I returned to New Zealand I immediately

began reading my Granddad's garden diaries. They spanned 40 years. Very quickly I gained a deeper personal understanding of the man and his relationship to the land that he so loved.

Because he recorded his garden experiences over many years, patterns became obvious. With this information I was then able to plan and act with confidence knowing what to expect of the land and the local climate. And in this instance became alerted to how dramatically New Zealand's climate had changed between his generation and my own and was able to use this knowledge to advantage.

Seasonal variations or climatic changes like the one that has been affecting New Zealand in recent years, can easily push ahead or pull behind many garden activities by a month or more. For this reason it is best to read not only the current month's activities but also those in the months on either side. Since nature does allow a great deal of flexibility, this will give you a better idea of what major jobs are coming up in the garden, as well as reminding you to complete a project that there wasn't time to finish last month.

The serious gardener should read through the entire year repeatedly. Become familiar with the activities plantings, flowerings and harvests of each season.

This way you can plan and detail your garden well in advance which will greatly help to focus your attention toward the successful achievement of multiple

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garden projects running simultaneously which is what it takes to create a truly effective garden.

Knowledge is power! Be aware that knowledge is constantly changing and ever expanding so do be creative, flexible and very open to the exciting knowledge you can learn by listening to the inspirational “whispers” with which nature will guide you. Because New Zealand is blessed with such a wonderful, often forgiving climate many things will survive being planted or transplanted even at the wrong time. This is especially true when the gardener, armed with knowledge, proceeds with deliberate care.

Remember that we often learn as much from a mistake as from a success. Many new ideas come about because someone tried to do something in a different way or made a mistake. Be sure to record all that you possibly can to help insure that all your activities lead toward your ultimate success!

Throughout the handbook you will find references to fertilizers and many varieties of sprays. While I have used almost everything at some time or another, it has been my attempt to create a balanced garden paradise where there is little need to affect the environment to any great degree chemically.

To achieve this end in my own quarter acre paradise where we film the television series *Living Earth* for TV3, I attempt to create a healthy environment for the garden i.e. building high quality soils rich in organic fertilizers; providing

adequate shelter, moisture, warmth; and planting the right plant in its appropriate microclimate.

The logic being that a happy plant is usually a healthy plant. The somewhat pampered, highly encouraged resident bird population takes care of most of the insects. And since insects transmit a lot of disease, the birds indirectly control fungus as well with every insect they catch. Those that they don't catch are usually controlled with dustings of lime, derris and/or organic sprays like pyrethrum, pepper, or garlic.

And I find that foliar feeding with many types or organic and inorganic fertilizers mixed with a fixative like Nitrosol, fish emulsion, liquid soap, or spray fix, to help them stick to the foliage will often largely deter insect attack. Insects like a good meal just like the rest of us.

If you can adversely alter the taste of their dinner even if it is with a friendly, helpful fertiliser, they'll often move on to find a more palatable meal in a less well cared for garden. But the day will come when you will need to spray. The art is to learn when, how much and what of, to knock out the problem before it can cause damage.

In my quarter acre paradise it's likely that I'll have to spray perhaps three or four times a year. At these times I am extremely careful and very thorough with all aspects of the operation. Sprays are meant to kill off disease and pests but they work on all living things, including us, so every precaution needs to be taken

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in dress, gloves, hats, masks, etc. to insure your safety. Attempt to insure the safety of your garden by spraying either very early or quite late in the day when most helpful creatures like preying mantis, lady bugs, bees, and birds are not liable to be actively feeding in the gardens where they could get contaminated.

Be careful not to spray water sources like ponds, bird baths, buckets of water, creeks, etc where pets or wildlife drink or where sprays could runoff and contaminate something they shouldn't. If the garden is wet when spraying this will be an advantage as the spray will bleed through the plants into places otherwise unreachable.

And mixing the spray with a fixative like spray fix, fish emulsion, Nitrosol (liquid blood and bone) or even liquid detergent will help the spray solution to stick and penetrate much further and be more effective.

The person who coined the phrase, "An ounce of prevention beats a pound of cure", must have been a lover of the garden. As you discover the garden world's darker side of disease, pestilence and sprays you will come to understand just how true this is. Just like a person catching a cold, there is that first day when one is exposed to the virus.

If one is healthy, well rested and strong there's little chance of the germs taking hold. And even if they do, a good rum, lemon and aspirin drink and an early night to bed can often stop the cold

before it ever gets out of control. But we all know what happens when things get out of control. The garden is exactly the same. There is always that first day of exposure. Perhaps the air is warm, humid, very damp and the weather forecast promises more to come. At such moments the experienced gardener can almost feel the fungus spores exploding like cluster bombs in the garden.

In another situation, for the past three days a strong northwest wind has been blowing bugs off Queensland and dumping them over your garden. Already there are aphids on the broccoli, and there's a dusting of thrip on the roses so you know there must be a legion of invisible mites also just starting to attack. These are the times to act and prevent their spread quickly. A thorough spraying at such critical moments will usually prevent the attack from ever happening.

Use your diary to learn to anticipate such moments by recording the weather patterns and what they bring with them. You'll soon learn to anticipate when, where, and how much to spray so that disease never visits your patch of paradise.

And just like Nana's chicken soup, never miss a chance to feed your garden to keep it healthy. Foliar feed your garden by mixing in a liquid fertiliser when you spray for disease and fungus. You'll help strengthen the plants to resist any pests you missed while encouraging strong healthy growth. I compare spraying plants with people taking antibiotics, which are also poisons. Used unwisely,

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antibiotics are ineffective or could even cause death yet many of us owe our lives to the effective use of antibiotics. The same applies to the effective use of plant sprays. We can see the results of an effective chemical campaign and accept it as a necessary situation. But we all hope that soon we will find a better way that will lead us a step closer to true balance and harmony with our world.

There's so very much to be learned in gardening. So if you become confused or get stuck for ideas ask a neighbour with a lovely garden; contact a professional at a local garden centre; visit a well planned garden and talk to the gardener(s); buy more reference books or ask your librarian for help or join a class or club where you will discover garden knowledge to be as abundant as the harvests you will one day grow!

But whatever you do, don't give up. While no one promised you that this would be easy, we are promising you a rose garden if you are willing to work for it!

As a general rule just about anything that will grow in the ground will grow in a pot. So even if you are in a small flat or unit with a tiny concrete backyard there is a wealth of plant material that you can grow indoors or outside in containers that will still allow you to create your own piece of paradise.

As mankind races toward a new millennium in our ever changing modern world we count with regret the cost to our environment. A new generation is rising,

soon to lead, that realizes, as we all must deep in the heart, that survival depends on finding a balance between our needs and those of our loving, living earth.

Already the wise are searching, looking for green solutions that blend with a modern world. In New Zealand we already stand by the garden gate to paradise yet sometimes take it for granted! The world needs a green model to look up to and we do it best.

This is our chance to blossom into a real life island nation paradise that cares. Let's become a nation of gardeners and nature lovers and plant our nation with the plan to harvest a rainbow of colourful, natural abundance for the entire world to see.

Through tourism, direct horticultural / agricultural employment and the economic spin-offs of lodging, entertainment, food and human services we could employ all our people. We would literally be paid to live in paradise!

Creating paradise in New Zealand is a long term, epic journey and all great journeys start with a simple first step.

That's easy enough for any of us to achieve. Every day of your life promise yourself to take another step by becoming actively involved with nature.

Soon you'll have travelled deeply into paradise, probably one you've created in your own backyard.

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March is an important transitional month around the World. The Equinox 20-21 March, brings Early Autumn 'south of the border' and Early Spring up North.

In many gardens this is the final flowering month for 'warm-season' classics like:

Alocassia, Amaryllis belladonna, Canna, Epidendrum (Crucifix Orchid), late Gladioli, Hymenocallis (Ismene), Phaseolus (Snail Vine), species/Tuberous Begonia, etc.

Radiant warmth and cooling nights bring out beautiful blooms from garden flowers like:

Asters, Coreopsis, Cosmos, Dahlia, Dianthus, Marigold, Mirabilis, Roses, Rudbeckia, Sunflower, Tuberose, Zinnia and many more.

There's work to do everywhere: flowers and herbs to cut for drying; fruits and vegetables to harvest and perhaps bottle, dry and store; Summer flower beds to clear away to the compost; cultivation, feeding and weeding; replacement with Autumn, Winter and Spring-flowering container plants and seedlings; Spring-flowering bulbs to plant; groundcovers, perennials, shrubs and trees to plant or shift; pruning and hedges to shape; lawns to feed, resow or start afresh; and so much more. The smart Gardeners know that it's best to get started!

Global Time of the Equinox:

In New Zealand 1 March represents the calendar and meteorological beginning of

Early Autumn. Mid month brings the Equinox when days and nights are roughly of equal length around the world.

True Autumn conditions usually arrive then or soon afterward. With the Equinox the Sun is positioned directly over the Equatorial zones, this is where the heat, humidity and sometimes storms arise.

Further up in the Northern Hemisphere, the days are noticeably lengthening as Early Spring warmth sweeps north.

Warmth has already returned to sheltered and (sub) tropical corners where Spring planting has begun. Signs of Spring are apparent in all but the coldest climate zones still dominated by Arctic winds and even there Spring-flowering bulb shoots and the first brave blooms will peep through by the end of the month.

While the lands of the Southern Hemisphere still radiate Summers' waning heat like under-floor heating, keeping conditions moderate and reliably pleasant for the most part all month. In many places March brings the most settled weather of the year.

While further to the South conditions have already begun to noticeably cool as the sunlight wanes away and Antarctic winds return bringing in true Early Autumn weather. By the end of the month really comfortable gardening weather usually has returned nationwide to New Zealand bringing cooler nights and pleasant days often with enough rain or heavy dew to reduce the need for watering so frequently.

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A 'Melting Pot' Potpourri of Flowers:

This mixing of seasonal climates brings on a real 'melting pot' in the garden where warm weather Summer flowers meet the first cool season blooms.

It is not uncommon to find tropical Alocassia (Elephant Ear), Amaryllis belladonna, Bougainvillea, Hibiscus, Stephanotis and Tuberous Begonia flowering alongside Autumnal Asters (Boltonia, Easter Daisy, Giant Crego), Goldenrod, a sea of Coreopsis, Cosmos, Marigolds and Zinnias.

While nearby and underneath them arise the first 'cool season' blooms of Pansy, Polyanthus, Primula, Sasanqua Camellia and perhaps even the first Colchicum and true Autumn Crocus or Paper White Narcissus.

Time for New and Improved Lawns:

This is probably the best month of the year to start a new lawn. Cultivate thoroughly and deeply, add fertilisers, seed and rake level and keep well watered. On an old lawn rake heavily then mow off old runners and weeds; fill in holes and dips with sand or fresh, weed-free soil and over-sow with lawn seed. Seed should germinate in two weeks or less at this time of the year.

If conditions remain warm and wet, the first blades may appear in as little as four or five days and the lawn could appear quite green in just a couple of weeks.

Start mowing high (8-10cm) with a catcher at first, reducing mowing height once the lawn grasses mature.

Seeding the lawn now insures a remarkable verdant green lawn as Autumn deepens. In mild climates experiencing only limited frosts or freezing this greening will improve all Winter and everywhere with the return of Springtime light and warmth.

Pruning:

Now is an excellent time to prune hedges and shrubs. This allows time for enough regrowth to make them look good throughout the Winter.

The exceptions are all shrubs and hedges that flower in Early Spring on old wood produced this season (Azalea, Camellia, Forsythia, deciduous Magnolias, Spiraea, Weigela, etc). Pruning now won't hurt them but would probably remove much of next Spring's flowering.

Autumn flowering shrubs either in bloom now or about to bloom (Abelia, Cassia, Luculia, Osmanthus, Sasanqua Camellia, etc), should be pruned right after flowering finishes.

Pests:

Many insect pests and the diseases they spread become very active now.

And with the first Autumn rains return the slugs and snails. Stay on-top of these problems!

Controlling or eliminating disease and pests now will mean a much healthier result, not only now, but over Winter and especially next Spring. Read more about how to control these problems later on in this month's Garden Diary.

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Weeds:

'One weed seeding means many years of weeding' aptly applies to this time of year. Warm, moist soil is an ideal breeding ground especially in garden beds that have been neglected for a while.

Cultivate or mulch regularly now and the garden will be much more easily controlled later down the track.

Plant Ground Covers, Hedges, Perennials, Shrubs, and Trees:

As weather conditions cool and moisten this is an ideal time to plant many groundcovers, hedges, perennials, shrubs and trees can be moved and/or planted out from containers. Planting now gives them a chance to become established with a good new root system before Winter so they will make the best and strongest growth in Spring.

A Time for Roses:

Equinox conditions stimulate bloom and growth in Roses, especially in (sub) tropical and warm temperate climates. Give them generous compost mulch, a good feeding and a light spraying to boost their Autumn flush of growth and flowering. Gardens experiencing a long, moderate Autumn can expect some of the finest Rose blooms to start flowering quite soon now.

It would not be too early to start digging new rose beds for Autumn/Winter planting especially in cooler climates. Choose a sunny site with good drainage (consider a raised bed), providing at least a metre of space in each direction for good ventilation between plants.

And as a general rule, the better the soil, the better the Roses! Read more about Roses and many other garden topics later in this month's Garden Diary.

FLOWER GARDENS

Many well planned gardens are looking spectacular now with bright colours ablaze everywhere. This is a traditional month where Late Summer flowers meet Early Autumn blooms, often creating dazzling displays. Other gardens in drought-affected regions and/or colder climates or with a strong Spring to Early Summer focus will be winding down and preparing for Winter.

Flowers in Bloom:

Because Late Summer melts into Early Autumn during March in the Southern Hemisphere, there is the potential for a remarkable variety of flowers that can bloom now. A well managed and planned garden will feature all the Late Summer classics, some early-planted ones will be fading or finishing this month. While in warm climates Late Summer and Autumn flowers could continue blooming for a long while yet.

An 'abundant' garden in a good year can remain at its warm weather peak almost all month provide it is well-positioned to benefit from its surrounding environment and is appropriately cared for. This can be a 'golden' time of bounty and harvest with many splendid blooms being produced as the weather cools. Being a Equinox month, most summer/warm weather blooming species will finish flowering this month as Autumn

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approaches. In truly (sub)tropical climates, the most impressive tropical-flowering species like Allamanda, Bougainvillea, Gardenia, Hoya, Hibiscus, Mandevilla, Plumeria (Frangipani), Stephanotis and many more will continue flowering sporadically throughout the month in warm gardens, but in borderline and cooler climates zones many have already finished or soon will.

As the days shorten to equal length with the night time and temperatures cool, this triggers the budding and early blooms of the lovely Autumnal species and cool season flowers. Their emergence will become more pronounced next month and through the cooler months of the year.

Here's a partial list of all the many things blooming now somewhere in New Zealand's Early Autumn gardens. This list includes 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.

Probably no one garden has everything listed here, especially growing and flowering simultaneously, but many of New Zealand's Botanical Gardens and finer private collections and displays would feature most of them.

If all of these gardens were considered as one combined countrywide garden stretching from the tropical North to the cool temperate and colder Alpine regions of the South, the list of possibilities is indeed impressive.

This considerable list of Early Autumn blooming species once again supports why New Zealand is considered such a remarkable country for gardening, and how it earned its reputation for being called Godzone Garden Country.

Groundcovers, Shrubs, Trees and Vines in Bloom in Early Autumn:

Abutilon (Chinese Lantern/Flowering Maple), Agapanthus (Lily of the Nile), Agave (Century Plant), Albizzia (Silk Tree/Mimosa), Alectryon (Titoki/berries), Anigozanthus (Kangaroo Paw), Antigonon (Coral Vine), Ardisia (Coral Ardisia), Astartia (finishing), Azalea, Baeckea (Heath Myrtle), Banksia (Australian Honey Myrtles), Bauhinia (Red Bauhinia), Beaufortia (Swamp Bush Myrtle), Beloporone (Shrimp or Lobster Plant), Berberidopsis (Montane Tape Vine/Coral Plant), Beschorneria (Mexican Wonder Plant), Beaufortia (Swamp Bottle Brush), Bomarea (Climbing Alstroemaria), Bougainvillea, Bouvardia (Scented Bouvardia), Brunia (South African Heath), Brunfelsia (Yesterday, Today Tomorrow/finishing now), Buddleia (Butterfly Bush), Caesalpinia (Bird of Paradise Bush), Calliandra (Inga/Snowflake Acacia/Brazilian Flame Bush), Callistemon (Bottlebrush), Calluna (Heather), Calocephalus (Silver Threads), Camellia Sasanqua (Early-flowering Hybrids), Campsis (Chinese Trumpet Vine), Canna, Cantau (Sacred Flower of the Incas), Carissa (Natal Plum), Caryopteris (Blue Spirea/ Bluebeard), Cavendishia, Ceratostigma (Chinese Plumbago), Cestrum, Choisya (Mexican Orange Blossom), Cistus (Rock

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Rose/sporadic and finishing), Clematis (late-flowering hybrids), Clerodendrum, Clethra (Lily of the Valley Tree/seeds), Clytostoma (Painted Trumpet Climber), Convolvulus (Creeping Morning Glory/Morning Glory Vine), Ceratostigma (Chinese Plumbago), Cortaderia (Pampas Grass), Cotinus (Smoke Bush), Crotalaria (Canary Bird Flower), Cunonia (Butter Knife Bush), Cuphea (Cigarette Plant/False Heather), Daboecia (Irish Heath), Daubentonia (Brazilian Glory Pea), Dianella (Blueberry/berries), Doryanthus (Spear Lily/finishing), Dracaena (Dragon Tree and species/flowers and berries), Dracophyllum (Grass Tree), Duranta (Sky Flower/Pigeon Berry/flowers and berries), Epacris (Australian Fuschia Heath/finishing), Erica (Heath species), Erythrina (Brazilian Coral Tree), Eucalyptus (Australian Gum species), Eugenia (Acmena/Monkey Apple/Lilly Pilly/ berries), Euonymus (Spindle Tree/Burning Bush and species/berries), Euryps (Golden Paris Daisy), Feijoa (Pineapple Guava/early fruits), Fremontia (Flannel Bush), Fuchsias, Gardenia, Grevillea species (Snail Flower), Hebe species (Veronica), Hedychium (Ginger Lily), Heteromeles (California May Bush/berries), Hibbertia (Guinea Flower/ Guinea Gold Vine), Hibiscus (tropical species) Hibiscus syriacus (Rose of Sharon), Hoheria (Lace Bark), Hoya (finishing), Hydrangea (finishing), Hypericum species (St. John's Wort), Idesia (Wonder Tree/berries), Indigofera (Chinese Indigo/finishing), Ipomoea (Morning Glory Vines), Jacobinia (Brazilian Plume Flower/finishing),

Jasminum azoricum and species (Azores Jasmine and species), (Koelreuteria (Golden Rain Tree/decorative pods), Lagerstroemia (Crepe Myrtle/finishing and pods), Lagunaria (Norfolk Island Hibiscus/Pyramid Tree/finishing), Lantana, Lapageria (Chilean Bell Flower Vine), Lathyrus (Argentine Pea Climber/finishing), Laurus nobilis (Bay Laurel/berries), Lavandula (Lavender), Leonotis (Lions Tail), Lippia (Lemon Verbena), Lithospermum (Blue Carpet), Lomatia (Silky Lomatia/finishing), Lonicera (Honeysuckle), Lophomyrtus (N.Z. Myrtle or Ramarama/finishing), Magnolia species, Mandevilla (Chilean Jasmine), Manettia Climber, Melaleuca species (Honey Myrtle/Paper Bark), Melia (Indian Bead Tree/berries), Metrosideros N.Z. Pohutukawa/N.Z. Christmas Tree and climbers/finishing), Monstera (Fruit Salad Plant/Swiss Cheese Vine), Musa (Banana), Myoporum (Ngaijo), Nandina (Chinese Sacred Bamboo/finishing and berries), Nerium (Oleander/finishing), Ochna (Fun Shrub), Olearia (N.Z. Holly and species), Ophiopogon (Mondo Grass species), Orphium (Sticky Flower/finishing), Osbeckia (finishing), Osmanthus (early flowering hybrids), Pandorea (Pandora/ Bower Vines), Parahebe (finishing), Passiflora (Passion Fruit Vine/finishing and fruiting), Pennisetum (Fountain Grass), Phaedranthus (Mexican Blood Flower), Phaenocoma (Pink Everlasting Flower/finishing), Phaseolus (Snail Flower/finishing/pods), Phormium (N.Z. Flax), Pimelia (Rice Flower), Plumbago (Cape Plumbago), Plumeria (Frangipani), Podranea (Port St. John's Creeper/finishing and pods), Polygonum

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(Knot Weed species), Potentilla (Cinquefoil), Punica (Pomegranate/finishing and fruiting), Pyracantha (berries), Raphiolepis (Indian Hawthorn, late flowering species/berries), Rhododendron (mostly Vireya hybrids and species), Ricinus (Castor Oil Plant /pods), Romneya (California Tree Poppy), Rosmarinus (Rosemary), Russelia (Coral Bush), Santolina (Lavender Cotton), Sarcococca (Christmas Box/berries start), Schefflera (N.Z. Patete, Umbrella Plant/berries), Schinus (Pepper Tree/ berries), 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), Sorbus (Mountain Ash/Rowan/berries start), Spartium (Spanish Broom), Spirea species (dwarf 'red' 'pink' flowering species), Strelitzia (Bird of Paradise), Stephanotis (Madagascar Jasmine climber/finishing in cooler positions), Strobilanthes (Goldfussia), Sutherlandia (Duck Plant, Balloon Pea/finishing/pods), Symphoricarpos (Snowberry/berries start), Tamarix, Tecomaria (Cape Honeysuckle/starts Teucrium (Germander), Thunbergia (Black Eyed Susan, Golden Glory, Scarlet Clock, Sky Flower vines), Tibouchina (Lasiandra), Tristania (Queensland Box/finishing) Tweedia (Heavenly Blue), Vitex (Chaste Tree, N.Z. Puriri/berries), Yucca, Zauschneria (California Fuchsia/Humming Bird Flower) and more locally.

Classic Warm Weather Flowers that Bloom in Early Autumn:

This list includes an assortment of Annual, Biennial and Perennial flowers grown in New Zealand gardens that could be found in flower in Early Autumn. Agapanthus, Agave (Century Plant/sporadic), Ageratum, Alyssum, Angelica (finishing), Anigozanthus (Kangaroo Paw), Aquilegia (occasional), Argentine Pea (Perennial Lathyrus/finishing), Asclepias (Butterfly Flower), Aster (many annual and perennial species), Begonia (annual, perennial and tuberous species), Calendula, Calliopsis, Campanula species, Candytuft (Iberis), Cannula, Canterbury Bells, Carnation, Chrysanthemum, Cineraria, Clarkia, Cleome, Cockscomb, Convolvulus (Creepy Morning Glory), Cornflower (Centaurea), Cosmos, Dandelion, Delphinium, Dianthus, Dimorphotheca (Star of the Veldt), Echium, Euphorbia (Spurge), Euryops (Golden Paris Daisy), Felicia (Kingfisher Daisy), Forget-Me-Not (Myosotis), Gaillardia, Geum, Gladioli (finishing), Godetia, Gypsophila, Hemerocallis (Day Lily), Hollyhock (finishing), Hosta (Plantain Lily/late flowering species), Hunnemanina, Hymenocallis (Ismene/finishing), Iceland Poppy, Impatiens, Kniphofia (Red Hot Poker), Larkspur, Lavender, Leonotis (Lion's Tail), Lilies, Linaria, Linum (Flax), Lithospermum (Blue Carpet), Lobelia, Lotus (Coral Gem), Manettia, Lupin, Marigold (French), Mignonette, Mimulus (Monkey Flower), Morning Glory, Nasturtium, Nemesia, Nigella (Love-in-a-Mist), Nymphaea

for more information and pictures visit www.daleharvey.com

Sampler

Summary of the Author

Dale Harvey is an International Environmental Consultant, Journalist, Television and Radio Presenter, Public Speaker, Photographer, Garden and Landscape Expert, Social scientist and Community Development Officer.



Dale Harvey is well known as a Presenter for the highly successful garden and environmental show *Living Earth* on TV3. For a decade he was also the Host and Presenter for the *Art of Gardening and Joy of Gardening* on Auckland's Radio I plus *Environmental Watch* on Radio Pacific. For the next five years he hosted and wrote *The National Garden Show* for Radio Pacific, *The Power of Free Speech*.

During this time Dale wrote spectacular weekly garden features for *New Zealand Women's Day Magazine* (Australian Consolidated Press) that were among the most widely read in the country.

Dale wrote the feature copy for publication also designed and grew the gardens and plants often from cuttings or seed that he then photographed; and also researched and documented them for his media work. Dale wrote three editions of the *Yates New Zealand Garden Handbook* that sold out.

His photography and consultancy was a major contribution to the books *Fragrant Garden* and *Colour In Your Garden* published by ACP international.

Mr. Harvey's diverse and fascinating botanical career inspired and guided the botanical progress of New Zealand. For his contribution to botanical knowledge, the people affectionately honored him with the title, 'Gardening Guru' of New Zealand. Soon afterward, the country became known as New Zealand, Godzone Garden Country.

Today environmental and garden tourism to New Zealand has become one of the top sources of revenue and reasons to visit there. Gardening has become the top leisure pastime and botanical/horticultural commerce is a major monetary resource for the country.

Singaporeans know Dale as an infrequent resident who researched tropical plants while visiting his family in the city. Dale's innovative environmental/ tourism consultations enhanced Singapore's environment/

tourism project image as "Singapore Garden City", which turned Singapore into a true garden city.

He frequented Singapore because his father, a Vice President of General Electric Corp. was managing the electronic component plant based there that was instrumental in the success of NASA and our modern computer age. This provided Dale with rare opportunities to become knowledgeable in a diverse range of exotic gardening practices and cultures plus gain a keen understanding of creative international business and corporate affairs.

The Japanese Government remembers Dale for his year of service to Premier Ohira's Cultural Agency through International House of Japan as a Botanical Consultant and Environmental Craftsman. There he influenced the Japanese Leadership and Public introducing and mixing Asian and Western garden concepts to create a new garden style. This became the basis for the 'green revolution' which is presently transforming Japanese garden culture today. Mr. Harvey was a frequent Botanical Consultant for the New Zealand Consulate in Tokyo. While working in a similar capacity with the Australian Embassy, he discovered an ancient buried garden on the Embassy grounds that later became a candidate as a National Treasure of Japan!

Dale was invited by Ambassador Menadue to become a permanent resident of Australia for his contributions to the Embassy in Tokyo. Ambassador Menadue imported Dale from their

Embassy in Tokyo to assist in the early develop the Greening of Australia programme based in Melbourne.

Australians recognize Dale for his award winning retail garden centre, Toorak Jungles, in Melbourne, which was created as an education showpiece with design assistance from Mr. John Newton.

The nursery helped inspire the earliest development of the Greening of Australia Programme. He was a strong advocate for gardening in schools as a most effective way to environmentally transform the nation. Today most schools in Australia are actively involved in greening their country and the world. Dale also introduced Australians to Asian botanical traditions through informative garden tours of Japan sponsored by Qantas and ANZ Bank.

During his fascinating career as an International Environmental Consultant, Dale has advised people of many nations, races, creeds, of all social classes from many walks of life. He has developed innovative community and school garden projects to uplift the health and quality of life for disadvantaged communities. He has been a consultant for government Consulates and Embassies. He has created spectacular gardens for business and private estates. He once advised H.R.H. Charles, Prince of Wales in the development of his environmental projects and wildflower fields.

Dale is a graduate of the University of

Kentucky, one of America's leading schools of horticulture, where he completed a double masters degree in Sociology (Community Development) and Education. Shortly after this he developed his innovative "Flower Power" projects that inspired the development of the modern-day community garden movement that has today blossomed into over 100,000 community gardens in the U.S.A. and Canada.

For this effort he received a USA National Garden Bureau Award for horticultural excellence; the 4-H Community Service Award; an International Citizenship Award for Cultural Integrity from Washington, D.C. plus a U.S.A National Parks and Recreation Award.

Harvey also received a full fellowship from the Japan-United States Friendship Commission/National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C. as an International Garden Artist, Environmental Craftsman and Botanical Consultant based in Tokyo, Japan.

More recently an Environmental Initiates Fund Awarded from the Auckland Regional Council/New Zealand Government for Botanical Community Projects as well as 30 awards in horticulture, arts and sciences. His experience in horticulture alone spans 60 years and 16 countries.

Dale Harvey is American born, was resident in Australia for many years where he still maintains family and business interests, and also lived in

Japan and Singapore and has lived for 29 years in Auckland, New Zealand. Dale's New Zealand connection dates from 1864 when his early ancestors moved from the United Kingdom to Christchurch. Later generations helped settle Napier, Hastings, Thames and Otahuhu as they pushed steadily north. His grandparents, Rev. H.B. Hughes and wife Ruby Lascelles retired from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Otahuhu to their South Auckland market garden district homestead and orchard in 1947.

This is the home of today's famous Quarter Acre Paradise Gardens. During World War II Dale's mother, Faith, met her Massachusetts-born husband-to-be Army Medical Corps Serviceman, Gilman Harvey in Auckland where they courted. After the war, the young couple immigrated to the USA where Dale was born. Dale, the first of four children, became a Kiwi-American hybrid like the hybrid flowers Dale loves to grow. The new family then returned to his Grandparents South Auckland orchard homestead.

Dale was deeply affected by his early "inspiring" garden experiences in New Zealand which were enriched and persistently cultivated well into his adult life by his Grandparents and Parents. These profoundly shaped the direction of his life. Later, his family returned to the USA for Dale's formal education.

But these memories dramatically shaped his botanical and environmental perspective and future development as he kept in close contact with his New

Zealand Family and they in turn sent him weekly clippings and letters about New Zealand's current affairs.

Dale returned to assume residence in his Grandparents South Auckland, New Zealand homestead in July, 1984 when the sudden death of his Aunt Beth left his Grandparent's property vacant. With the help of his Australian Partner, International Designer, John Newton, the homestead was redeveloped into what would later be known as the "Quarter Acre Paradise' Gardens, a working urban homestead that often features on his television programs, book and magazine features plus on their colourful and informative Website

www.daleharvey.com

and

[Quarter Acre Paradise Gardens](#)

Face Book pages.

Today the Quarter Acre Paradise Gardens are a local landmark. They create a magical garden setting for charity events, seasonal garden shows, special functions plus wedding parties visited by a variety of local tour groups and international guests. The gardens have expanded to include the neighbor's gardens featuring large conservatories, interconnecting covered walkways and shelters leading to many different themed garden rooms.

Garden displays are meant to inspire 'backyard' Gardens how to create a lot by spending just a little and using their own skill and knowledge to inexpensively create a lot more. While other special shows feature up to 100,000 fragrant blooms glowing through 50,000 fairy lights. The gardens

have frequently featured in the Heroic Gardens and Trinity Garden Festivals and are often used as backdrops for advertising and wedding photography.

These remarkable gardens have given Dale and John the opportunity to vastly expand their knowledge, understanding and careers in many directions inspiring beautiful botanical photography, very informative and practical garden books, magazine and website articles; practical celestial forecasting (planting by the Moon and constellations); a landscape/nursery business; Garden Consultations, a worldwide Internet Florist Shop; radio and television appearances; and two colourful and highly informative Websites plus Face Book pages.

In recent years, Mr. Harvey with assistance from Mr. Newton were also commissioned to create, design, implement and plan a massive botanical forest park and lakeside garden for a large events/function center and hunting lodge in Central Wisconsin. They even assisted and trained the existing lodge staff with limited botanical knowledge how to successfully plant and maintain their botanical gardens.

Many thousands of ornamental specimens were planted successfully in just 5 weeks and ahead of deadline! Today the gardens are still being maintained by the same staff and have already become a tourist destination and major commercial asset for the lodge and the greater regional community

Mr. Harvey and Mr. Newton are presently collaborating on a new and

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improved educational website which includes upgrading the Quarter Acre Paradise gardens. The purpose of this website is to educate and inspire Gardeners and Nature Lovers about a wide range of botanical, environmental, gardening and nature-related topics.

This website features beautiful botanical images plus helpful and interesting garden-related articles. A monthly and weekly Garden Calendar Diary can be downloaded. It is possible to register as a regular subscriber and each month receive a helpful garden newsletter. Many products and services are available for purchase on line. Plus a beautiful Quarter Acre Paradise Face Book page gives viewers the opportunity to take a seasonal visual tour through the Quarter Acre Paradise Gardens and ask garden questions.

Dale Harvey continues to spread his environmental messages and practical, common sense solutions for the benefit of people everywhere. Dale's life goal has always revolved around doing whatever is necessary to inspire and lead interested and passionate people toward an age of enhanced botanical appreciation and knowledge, environmental paradise and peaceful prosperity around the world.

Sampler

“Quarter Acre” Paradise Gardens

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