

top tomato tips

how to dry flowers

Explore Liz's tiny farmstead

perfect companion plants

your lawn for summer



HELLO

From creating a mini orchard and planting tomatoes to growing beautiful blooms for bouquets, if you've got the vision, we've got the know-how.

> Find the perfect crop with our spring gardening guide on page 6 and if you're keen to give companion planting a go, find the ideal match for your spring veges on page 4.



For a bumper crop of flavoursome tomatoes in time for summer turn to page 5 for handy tips from our Facebook friends, plus our three simple steps to success.

Get your floral fix on **page 10** as Shaye Woolford, owner of On My Hand Styling & Flora shares her guide to drying flowers from the garden and creating beautiful bouquets to enjoy for years to come.

If you have a smaller space but would still like to enjoy fresh homegrown fruit, Ministry of Ground landscaper Dan Mackay shares his top picks for creating a mini orchard across the page.

On page 8, step into Liz Anderson's (@tiny_farmstead) Pride of Place in North Auckland. Known for her fresh, colourful garden snaps on Instagram, discover her beautiful farmyard featuring productive raised vege gardens, fruit trees and chickens!

Share your pride of place and win!

Spring is a busy planting time and we'd love to see what you're growing. Share your spring garden snaps on our Facebook facebook.com/TuiGarden/ or on Instagram with #myprideofplace. Tag @tuigardenandhome to be featured too. From the first strawberry flower to the much-awaited tomato planting time, we want to see how you're enjoying your garden! Two #myprideofplace winners will each win a Tui Worm Farm to turn organic kitchen waste into rich, natural fertiliser to keep their spring crops growing. Entries close 22 November 2019.



CREATE A MINI ORCHARD AT YOUR PLACE

You'd normally associate an orchard with a large area, but there's plenty of options to plant for a smaller version in your backyard! Whether you're a citrus lover or into feijoas, Ministry of Ground's Dan Mackay shares his top picks and tips.

DAN'S TOP 5 FRUIT PICKS

- Meyer lemon I love this variety because it fruits on and off year-round and being the most hardy lemon variety it is also suited to South Island climates.
- Tahitian lime this favourite is a vigorous, hardy tree
 that grows to 2-4 metres tall producing small, oval bright
 green fruit which become light yellow when ripe. I find
 that if you plant lemons and lime closely they will both
 attract pollinators and you will get a better crop.
- Double grafted Black Doris and Santa Rosa plum having a double graft means that there are two plum varieties grafted onto one root stock, offering you two different fruit to harvest on one plant. The two different blossoms flower at slightly different times, providing a longer fruiting period. Black Doris is an all purpose classic, with dark red sweet, juicy flesh, while Santa Rosa produces medium to large fruit with fantastic flavour one of the highest flavoured in the plum world.
- Feijoa my feijoa favourite is Apollo, a productive variety that produces really tasty oval fruit. This variety is semi self-pollinating so can be planted by itself in a small garden. However, if you want more fruit it's best to plant a second variety for cross pollination.
- Passionfruit your mini orchard wouldn't be complete
 without a passionfruit vine over the summer months. It is
 essential to plant passionfruit in a full sun position and
 if possible sheltered from wind and frost. The best way
 to encourage great fruiting is to feed your passionfruit
 often with citrus food.

Orchard Product Pick

Apply <u>Tui Enrich Fruit</u>, <u>Citrus</u>, <u>Tree</u>
<u>& Shrub</u> controlled release fertiliser
every six months - in early spring and
late summer. This premium blend is
formulated with high levels of potassium
for optimum flowering and fruiting, with
added magnesium to prevent yellowing leaves.



DAN'S TOP MINI ORCHARD TIPS

- If you have a small courtyard garden planting grafted fruit in pots and containers will mean you can keep the plants compact and still get plenty of fruit.
- Espaliering is not only a good space saver and perfect for covering a fence, it also makes a contemporary landscape feature in your backyard.
- Why not plant pollinators? Pollination is essential for your trees to produce fruit. One plant that's a favourite of mine but often forgotten about is borage – it will bring all the bees to town with its bright purple blooms.
- Companion planting my three-hit combo for companion planting is mint, lemongrass and marigold. These guys will attract lady bugs and other predator bugs that will protect the fruit. Marigolds are available in a range of fun colours in spring, and you can never have too much mint in your life - think summer mojitos!



Dan Mackay

Designer & Director at Ministry of Ground

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ministryofground.co.nz









Companion planting involves grouping plants together so that they can help each other to grow better. Growing certain plants together will also help deter insect pests from ruining your carefully tended plants before you get the chance to enjoy them. Follow our table to discover crops that make the perfect (or not so perfect!) pair.

CROP	SUITABLE COMPANIONS	UNSUITABLE COMPANIONS
Beans	 Carrot, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, cucumbers, marigold, sweetcorn 	★ Capsicum, chives, garlic, leek, onion, tomato
Broccoli	Celery, chamomile, dill, rosemary	★ Oregano, strawberry
Carrot	Beans, lettuce, onion, peas, radish, tomato	X Dill, parsnip
Cauliflower	Beans, celery, oregano, peas	★ Nasturtiums, peas, potato, strawberry, tomato
Courgette	Nasturtiums, parsley, beans, radish, spinach, lettuce	× Potatoes
Cucumber	Beans, celery, lettuce, peas, radish	★ Cauliflower, potato, basil and other strong-smelling herbs
Lettuce	Carrot, cucumber, radish, strawberry	★ Beans, parsley
Onion	Broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, strawberry, tomato	X Beans, peas
Pea	Beans, carrots, cucumber, radish, sweetcorn	★ Onion family
Potato	Beans, cabbage, eggplant, peas, sweetcorn	X Cucumber, pumpkin, squash, sunflower
Radish	Beans, carrot, cucumber, lettuce, melon, peas, squash, strawberry	★ Brassicas
Spinach	Cauliflower, celery, eggplant, strawberry	×
Sweetcorn	Beans, celery, cucumber, melon, peas, radish	★ Tomato
Tomato	Asparagus, basil, carrot, celery, parsley	X Brassicas, fennel, potato, sweetcorn

Check out Dan Mackay's companion planting tips on page 3 and the Tui Companion Planting Guide here: tuigarden.co.nz/ideas-and-inspiration/companion-planting-guide/



Harvesting fresh homegrown tomatoes is a joy Kiwi gardeners look forward to each year. Store bought tomatoes just never taste as good as those fully ripened and grown with love in the summer sun! We've put together top tips to help you enjoy a bumper crop of tasty tomatoes.

TIPS FROM OUR GARDEN GURU

- Place stakes in the soil for each tomato plant before planting to provide support and avoid damaging the roots later on.
- Water regularly, a deep soaking two or three times a week. Irregular watering can lead to blossom end rot, and if plants dry out they are more susceptible to pests and diseases.
- Avoid watering the foliage as this can cause fungal disease.
- Split tomatoes are commonly caused by fluctuations in temperature and/or irregular watering. In addition to regular watering, mulch around plants to help maintain moisture. Feed regularly and apply Tui Organic Seaweed Plant Tonic at least once a month for a healthy boost and to help plants cope with temperature changes.
- Basil makes a great companion plant for tomatoes, repelling diseases and improving growth and flavour.
- As your tomatoes grow, remove the laterals to encourage bigger and better fruit. Laterals are the shoots that grow out from the side of the stem.



Handy hints from our Facebook friends

- · A friend of mine grew her tomatoes in a bag of tomato mix as she didn't have enough room to grow them in her garden and she had a number one crop. - Hilary
- I've had success with putting milk powder in the hole before planting for an extra boost of calcium. - Julieanne
- Feed your tomatoes regularly. I make a home brew of seaweed, comfrey, banana skins, egg shells and manure. Smells lovely. - Dawn

PREPARE

To ensure your plants get off to the best start prepare the soil before planting by digging in organic matter like compost and Tui Sheep Pellets. Containing all natural pelletised New Zealand sheep manure, Tui Sheep Pellets are the essential Kiwi garden ingredient adding organic matter to improve soil structure, encourage earthworms, and nourish plants.



Add a layer of **Tui Tomato Mix** specifically formulated with extra potassium to encourage a plentiful harvest of big juicy fruit before planting. If planting in containers fill them with Tui Tomato Mix.



Feed tomato plants planted in the garden with Tui **Tomato Food** every four weeks to replenish nutrients used, and to enhance flavour and ripening. For tomatoes planted in pots and containers apply Tui Enrich Vege, Tomato & Herb controlled release fertiliser.



For top varieties to grow and tasty tomato recipes visit our website: tuiproducts.co.nz

SPRING GARDENING GUIDE

After a mild winter many of you will be enjoying plentiful homegrown harvests and it's the ideal time to top-up your patch with spring crops. As the soil warms plant sun-loving favourites including tomatoes and capsicums. No matter where you live or how big your growing space, there's a crop for you this season.

PICK YOUR PERFECT CROP

If you're not sure what to plant when use our handy crop picker tool at tuiproducts.co.nz. Find out when to plant vege and fruit favourites in your region, and how long before it will be ready to eat!

We also include tips, guides and recipe inspiration for the crop you are planting.



Tomatoes were the most searched crop using this tool last spring!

SPRING VEGE MUST-HAVES

Whether you have a big raised garden bed or are looking to grow a few herbs in pots, spring provides plenty of delicious options.

Lettuce – a quintessential salad crop that can be grown by anyone. Even if you don't have a garden bed, a bucket or small pot is enough to grow a plant or two. Lettuces come in a wide range of colours, shapes, sizes and types – the hardest part can be deciding which ones to grow!

Capsicum – a popular vege to grow in warm areas as they are relatively quick to produce a crop and don't require a lot of special care. Most capsicum varieties start off green then change to red, purple, black, yellow or orange as they ripen.

Parsley – a popular garnish around the world, parsley is one of the easiest herbs to grow year-round. Choose a spot close to your kitchen or put pots on a sunny windowsill inside for easy access.

Tomato – whether you enjoy yours in sandwiches or salads, roasted or plucked straight from the vine – tomatoes take pride of place in Kiwi gardens over spring and summer. Once the soil has warmed, plant yours in garden beds or pots and containers.

Spinach – packed with nutrients and vitamins, spinach is a superfood of the garden and perfect for your spring salads or quiches, curries and stir fries. Ideal for beginner gardeners, it's fast growing and will continue cropping for months when harvested frequently.

Spring onion – commonly used in salads, soups, dumplings and stir fries. They are a great choice for pots and containers, are easy to grow, and mature in just a few months.

Strawberry – if you haven't got your strawberries in the ground already, pop them in now to ensure a summer harvest. Choose a sunny spot and a good guide is to plant five strawberry plants per family member.

3 STEPS TO VEGETABLE CARE



Once you've chosen your spring crops, it's time to get your soil into shape.

- Dig in organic matter to your soil like Tui Compost and Tui Sheep Pellets to add nutrient rich organic matter, improve soil structure and encourage earthworms for healthy plant growth.
- You can then add a layer of Tui
 Vegetable Mix, or a mix that is
 specially blended for what you're
 planting. If you're planting tomatoes,
 use Tui Tomato Mix. This will provide
 a base of essential nutrients to
 ensure your plants get off to the
 best start.





If you're a first time gardener you may find it easier to grow from seedlings, rather than seed, although seeds are a more economical option.

- If you're sowing seeds, check seed packets for individual planting instructions. If you're planting seedlings, check the directions section on the back of your planting mix.
- The best times to plant are early in the morning or late in the day, so your plants aren't exposed to the hot sun straight away.
- Soak your plants in Tui Organic Seaweed
 Plant Tonic to help prevent transplant shock and promote healthy plant and root growth.



03 NOURISH

Feed your plants and they will feed you. Plants use nutrients from the soil as they grow, so replenishing those nutrients ensures your plants grow to their full potential.

- Choose a fertiliser that is specially blended for your crop like Tui Vegetable Food, or if you're growing in pots and containers select a blend from the Tui Enrich controlled fertiliser range.
- A well watered, well nourished vegetable garden will have a better chance of keeping insect pests and diseases at bay.





SPRING Q&A

Sometimes during the busy growing season a little help is needed. We've put together answers to common garden questions for spring garden success.

- Q. Why are my tomato leaves curling?
- A. Leaf curl on tomatoes can be a sign of a few things too much water, too little water, irregular watering, too much nitrogen in the soil, or too much sun. Remove the worst affected leaves, and rather than watering a little and often, give your plants a deep water once or twice a week instead. Apply Tui Organic Seaweed Plant Tonic to give your plants a healthy boost. Apply at 70ml per 9 litre watering can once a week until the plant picks up.
- Q. Why do my lemons have no juice?
- A. Dry lemons are normally caused through lack of water over the summer period as the fruit is forming. You can't get the moisture into your current lemons but you can fix the problem so it doesn't happen next year by watering more regularly. It can also be caused by lack of fertiliser. Spring is the right time to apply Tui Citrus Food around the base of the plant then again at the end of fruiting. For citrus in containers, we recommend using Tui Enrich Fruit, Citrus, Tree & Shrub fertiliser.
- Q. Which plants are good companions for strawberries?
- **A.** Strawberries grow well with beans, chives, lettuce, onions, peas, radishes and spinach.
- Q. When is the best time to prune citrus?
- A. The best time to prune your citrus is early summer avoid pruning in winter and in September/October as you run the risk of lemon borer laying eggs in fresh cuts. Generally citrus do not require pruning unless they are getting too large or are misshapen. Prune if you need to for either a desired shape, to remove any diseased stems, or to improve air circulation. Harvest all the fruit prior to pruning. Protect cuts with pruning paste or a water based paint to seal the wound. Apply a side dressing with Tui Citrus Food at the same time and add a thick layer of mulch around the base to keep the roots cool over summer.
- Q. How do I deter cats from going toilet in my garden?
- A. Try planting strong-smelling plants like curry plant, lemon balm and pennyroyal, or sprinkle a little cayenne pepper or chilli from the pantry around plants. Automatic sensor sprinklers are brilliant too, the movement triggers them to start. Another option is adding a layer of mulch or straw around your plants. Other gardeners have had success with sprinkling Tui Sheep Pellets on their garden and not digging them in cats don't like the smell and won't use the area.

Discover more answers to common garden questions on our website: tuigarden.co.nz/garden-questions/

MY PRIDE OF PLACE: TINY FARMSTEAD

I'm Liz and I have a half acre backyard farm just north of Auckland. We originally were looking for more land when we purchased our property four years ago, but fell in love with this place when we saw it. While it did (and still does) have its challenges, we could see so much potential to transform it into a productive food space and to become more self-sufficient.

I have almost always had a garden. When I was a kid, I had my own raised bed which I used for peas and beans and when I rented with only an upstairs deck, I grew a huge amount of veges in an assortment of salvaged containers and tubs. I really believe that space isn't a barrier for gardening, and it's amazing what you can do with vertical space.

When we moved here there wasn't much in the way of garden, and while I was eager to get straight in, I also knew it was important to get to know our space including prevalent winds, sun and shade spots, and drainage. Our property is split into four zones. We have an in-ground garden which is 5m by 8m, eight raised beds, the orchard which includes 24 fruit trees and then the house zone which includes a number of fruiting trees, bushes and vegetables, most of which are grown in pots and barrels.

We have heavy clay soil and also live in flood plains, which combined result in a lot of surface water through winter and spring. To combat this we put in the first lot of raised beds which was quickly followed by a second lot. They've been such a great investment for us and have meant we can have some food all year round. As much as I love the raised beds for their practicality, it's the in-ground garden that is my favourite. Every summer it becomes an overgrown jungle of edible chaos. I pack it full of flowers, veges and herbs and I love how different it is every year. It's always a hive of activity, filled with bees, butterflies, dragonflies, insects, birds and the occasional frog. Unfortunately, we found out during our first winter that it becomes a non-draining bog and wasn't going to grow much other than rice. Over the last few years I have been building up the quality and height of the soil to improve drainage, and this year was the first winter I planted it.

The one thing I couldn't be without here are my beautiful, rotund, mischievous girls. Not only do I love them for their little personalities and their entertaining shenanigans, but they are a huge part of my tiny farm operation. Their coop shavings go into making fantastic compost and they are always on organic pest control. Those girls are eating machines and love to scratch around and eat as many bugs as they can. Like us, they really love fresh fruit and are often caught helping themselves straight from the fruit trees.

I'm often asked whether we eat everything we grow. I do gift a fair amount but what we can't eat fresh, I preserve. I love dehydrating and always have an array of herbs, seasonings, stock and citrus powders in the cupboard. I make pickles, chutneys and jam but most of all, I ferment. I have a deep love for fermenting which I attest to my Polish heritage. At any point of time my cupboards and fridge are filled with an assortment of fermented goods and summer is by far my favourite season for fermenting.

Every year I have successes and failures but the top three things I have learnt and always fall back on are; know your space and embrace your climate, start small and don't do too much at once, and most importantly grow what you love to eat.

Happy gardening everyone!

BY LIZ ANDERSON Location: North Auckland (i): @tiny_farmstead









Spring is a great time to get your lawn into tip top shape for summer entertaining and backyard activities. Follow our tips to patching, feeding, weeding and watering for a summer-ready lawn.

PATCHING

Restore your lawn to its previous glory with our conveniently sized **Tui LawnForce® Superstrike Lawn Seed Easycare Patch Pack**. Our Easycare blend includes quality fine turf ryegrass and turf fescue and germinates in as little as seven days in ideal weather conditions.

- · Rake out dead patches to loosen up the soil surface.
- Apply Tui LawnForce® Lawn Preparation Mix over the patch 25-20mm deep and firm down with the head of the rake by stamping.
- · Sow seed as directed on the pack.
- Water well and keep moist on a daily basis during the germination period.

FFFDING

Well nourished lawns will have a better chance of keeping weeds, insect pests and diseases at bay.

- If you have recently sowed your lawn, apply Tui
 LawnForce® New Lawns slow release fertiliser
 to encourage lush, thick green growth.
- Once your lawn is established, fertilise your lawn in spring and autumn with Tui LawnForce® All Purpose or Tui LawnForce® Max Green for a quick green-up.

Application is made easy with our new **Hand-Held Spreader** – available in–store now.



WEEDING

- Keep weeds out of your lawn with regular feeding and watering, and keep the edges tidy for a well cared for look.
- When mowing, don't set the mower too low and 'scalp' the lawn, as this encourages weeds and stresses the grass.
- Remember to spray for prickles in spring and autumn to prevent spikes from setting so the whole family can enjoy the lawn over summer.
- Keep an eye out for our new Tui LawnForce® Weedkill slow release fertiliser product in late spring to feed and weed your lawn at the same time!
- If your soil is too acidic (a simple pH test will reveal this), it provides the ideal conditions for broadleaf weeds.
 Add Tui Lime to neutralise and improve soil condition.

WATERING

- Keep your lawn well watered, particularly after sowing new seed and over the warmer months.
- Add Debco SaturAid to assist with water distribution before sowing lawn seed. Debco SaturAid granular soil wetting agent holds water in the soil and distributes it evenly and directly to the root zone. It will make your watering efforts more efficient, reducing water use by up to 50%.

Tui Tips

- If the patches in your lawn are caused by your dog's urine, add vinegar to the dog's water to help neutralise it and prevent it burning the lawn.
- Apply worm tea for green growth and disease resistance.
- Remember to move around trampolines and swimming pools to avoid your lawn dying off underneath.



My name is Shaye Woolford, owner of On My Hand - an innovative styling and floral design studio located in Tauranga. On My Hand specialises in botanical-inspired events, with seasonal flowers being paramount to our designs.

Dried floral bouquets are becoming increasingly popular as gifts and for styling purposes, as they last much longer than a fresh bunch. A dried flower bouquet is made using flowers that have been dried from fresh cut stems. The best time of the year to dry flowers and foliage is summer, because the temperature is warm, and mould is less likely to grow.

There are plenty of flowers that can be dried. My favourites include: roses, hydrangeas, gomphrena, strawflowers, achillea, statice and eringeum as they hold their colour well. Foliage is also a good option for drying. Palm leaves, toe toe and ornamental grasses are perfect picks for bouquets.

Pick flowers at the right time for drying and wait until the flower variety has hardened off. Hydrangeas are best picked in late summer to autumn. Choose roses that have tight petals. If you try dry a fully opened rose, with a slight touch it will fall apart. If you are wanting a toe toe look, these natives flower in spring.

When designing your flower bouquet, think about a colour palette. We like to use colours that are natural to our environment. You could try pastel shades of statice with pink roses and gypsophila. Or for something more earthy, ornamental grasses, white strawflowers and yellow achillea.

We air dry our flowers by hanging bunches upside down in our studio. When you hang yours, make sure there is air circulating around each bunch and the stems are straight. Drying your flowers in a dark room will help their colour last longer. Leave your flowers to dry for 2-4 weeks.



Shaye Woolford

Owner of On My Hand Styling and Flora

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onmyhand.co.nz

facebook.com/onmyhandnz

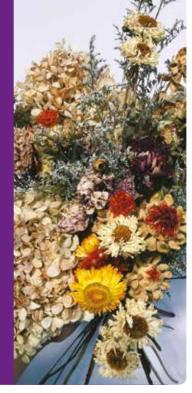
CREATING A DRIED FLOWER BOUQUET

Tools:

- Scissors or secateurs
- <u>Twi</u>ne
- Ribbon
- Dried flower stems 20-30 per bouquet.
 Keep steams as long as possible.

Method:

- 1 Strip any leaves off the lower third of your flower stems.
- 2 Using a spiral technique, hold a few stems angled towards you in a loose hand, then gather the next few stems and cross over the first lot (this second group will be vertical). Gather your next few stems and cross over that vertical piece (this third group will be angled away from you). Continue adding and crossing in this way until you start to form a
- bouquet and have used all your stems. Watch a video demonstrating this technique here: youtube.com/watch?v=MVOoqyqm9Mo
- 3 Gently pull any that have fallen up underneath the head of the flower. If you feel something isn't looking right, pull it out and place it back where you want it.
- **4** When you're happy with your bouquet, tie twine around it, as tight as you can without breaking the stems.
- 5 Using ribbon (we love to use plant dyed silk ribbon), wrap this in a bow around the twine. You can now place your beautiful dried flowers in a vase in your home, hang on the wall for decoration or gift to a friend wrapped in brown paper.



A new growing season has arrived and that means exciting new products to keep your garden healthy and refreshed. Discover our product picks for spring below.

TUI CITRUS & FRUIT MIX

A high quality mix specially blended with the right nutrients to provide your citrus and fruit trees with the best possible start and sustained growth.

The inclusion of potassium, magnesium and iron promote flower and fruit development and healthy green growth. Added seaweed extract stimulates root development whilst improving overall plant health, and SaturAid channels water directly to the roots. Suitable for use in garden beds, pots and containers. Keep an eye out for Tui Citrus & Fruit Mix this spring.



TUI LAWNFORCE® HAND-HELD SPREADER

Use the **Tui LawnForce® Hand-Held Spreader** to easily and evenly disperse Tui LawnForce® fertiliser on your lawn. The dispenser handle

spreads fertiliser as you rotate it, while controlling and maximising coverage. The **Hand-Held Spreader** is suitable for use on small to medium lawns and designed for use with **Tui LawnForce® Fertilisers**.



TUI TOMATO GROW TOWER

In time for tomato
planting we've launched
the Tui Tomato Grow
Tower. With an 8 litre
water storage reservoir,
a self watering feature
and an extendable
support frame the Tui
Tomato Grow Tower
is a simple way to
grow and support your
tomato plants.



TUI MOBILE VEGE PATCH

Also new this spring, the **Tui Mobile Vege Patch** with a
12 litre water storage reservoir, a self watering feature and an extendable support frame.
Suitable for all vege types, it's perfect for small spaces and provides a simple way to grow and support your veges.



SEAWEED PLANT TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY

TUI ORGANIC SEAWEED PLANT TONIC + 25% EXTRA FREE

Everyone's favourite seaweed product has 25% extra free to keep your plants nice and healthy over spring. Regular applications will promote root growth, encourage fruit and flower production and help plants cope with heat and drought.

NEW SEASON BLOOMS

This spring **Ambrosia Nurseries** have released a stunning new Ruffles Purpleberry Lavender plant. Keep an eye out for it in Mitre 10 stores across the country with a free **Tui NovaTec Premium** fertiliser 75g included.



TUI SPRING TIMES 2019



Buy any Tui product and be into win 1 of 3 \$500 Canopy Camping vouchers.



Enter at tuiproducts.co.nz or text 'ESCAPE' to 9090.