

Spring Edition  
>>> NEWSLETTER <<<  
**FRUIT BURST**



## TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

Well it's nice to have longer and warmer days again, even if some are a bit wet. It's been a busy end to the winter and start of the spring for us with the push to finish the winter pruning and find a break in weather for spring pruning. Add to this weeds growing, planting and fruit tree spraying starting and it adds up to all hands on deck. So much so that now Bertie is doing regular edible garden care, maintenance and consultancy, meaning we're both juggling the kids and work, but that's all part of the fun!

We're both really excited to be developing a new gift card for Christmas which is going to offer a mix of services ranging from pruning workshop, consultancy and pruning. So if you're stuck for thoughtful presents for someone you love this Christmas, we will be emailing all the information to you soon.

Cheers for your ongoing support, we value all our clients,

*Dave & Bertie Pendleton*

**WE WOULD LOVE OUR VALUED CLIENTS  
TO LEAVE A REVIEW ON GOOGLE PLEASE!!**



## FRUIT & NUT TREES

### SPRING TO DO - SEPT, OCT, NOV

Spring is the busy season for your trees as they wake from winter dormancy and the roots will kick into action before we see any sign of life above ground. For us there is little hands-on work to be done as we want to limit the amount of stress we put on your tree as they are already under a lot of pressure at this time. But we should:

- Prune stone fruits and citrus once blossoming has finished on a dry day now that the risk of Silver leaf and late frost have passed.
- Start your spring pest and disease management, set moth traps and spraying program if you wish.
- Monitor your trees closely for signs of pest and disease, as when trees start growing so do the nasty.
- Feed your citrus in spring, ready for this season's growth.
- Thin your fruit, removing a few will help the many. Find out how and why at <https://www.ediblebackyard.co.nz/how-to-thin-fruit-and-why-you-need-to-2/>
- Monitor spring rainfall to see if we have dry spells, if so we may need to water our young trees.
- Enjoy the spring blossom and fresh green leaves.

Water is one of the key building blocks of life and is key for our young trees to survive and thrive. If there has been no substantial rainfall for 3 to 4 days then the young trees will need to be watered. More information on tree watering can be found at: <https://arbordayblog.org/treecare/how-to-properly-water-your-trees/>

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### WHAT'S IN SEASON

This time of year is the stop gap in fruit tree production, but your citrus should still be going strong with Apples, Kiwi, Navel Oranges, Tangelos, Grapefruit, Strawberries (soon!), to name a few. Fruit buds and flowers will be appearing on stone fruits, citrus, nuts and more!



## EDIBLE GARDENS

### Spring to do

- Keep your soil topped up and healthy ready for the Spring/Summer plantings. Think organic matter! This will feed the soil, keep moisture in, and keep the temperature warm.
- Start filling your patch with delicious spring veggies such as salad greens and herbs. Although patience is also key here, a late frost will wreck all hard earned efforts, so keep an eye on the weather forecast! Soil temperature needs to be warm enough, so keep an eye on the soil before you plant.
- Start a compost heap if you haven't already.
- Divide herbs such as thyme and rosemary. Divide rhubarb
- Take cuttings for propagating
- Check for signs of pest, diseases including larger rodents such as mice, rats, possums as they will be out looking for food!

**Veggies to sow direct or in trays:** Aubergine, chillies, cucumbers, capsicums, courgette, beans, daikon, peas, loofah, carrots, lettuce, celtuce, tomatoes.

Use empty toilet rolls for sowing seeds in, there is no transplant shock when they are planted out!

**To plant out:** Tomatoes, chillies, cucumbers, courgettes, pumpkins, jerusalem artichokes, yams, garlic, potatoes, cape gooseberries. Harden them off for a few days before planting out to help reduce transplant shock. A good tip is to cover new seedlings with empty plastic bottles, or make a canopy from twigs, to allow airflow and light, and water, but to deter the slimy slugs, snails and other prey such as birds!

- Continue planting a variety of berries for summer.
- Plant vibrant blooms in the veggie patch to brighten things up. Flowers in the veggie garden also encourage bees, helping pollinate vegetables like tomatoes and beans! Flowers such as borage, poppy, cosmos, sweetpeas, alyssum, nasturtium are easy to grow flowers.



STAKE VEGGIES WHICH NEED IT WHEN YOU PLANT OUT. THIS WILL MINIMISE ROOT DISTURBANCE AND THE RISK OF DAMAGING THE PLANT IF STAKING LATER ON.

# Bertie's Edible Gardens

It feels so good to be back at 'work', although I'm enjoying myself far too much to call it work! As we are heading into the end of the year, my goals are to let you all know what I can offer. These include 1:1 edible garden consultations for home gardens and orchards, creating guilds and food forests, maintenance one-offs or ongoing. More information is on our website [www.kernowtreesandedibles.co.nz](http://www.kernowtreesandedibles.co.nz)

Here is an example of an edible garden consultation:

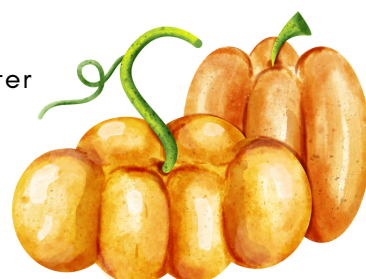
I will visit your property for approximately 1 hour, and we can discuss the topics below. A full written report with our main discussion points, advice and recommendations for your space, with helpful resources, is included. These sessions may include the following topics to discuss:

- Site & aspect
- Soil type, buildings of the soil & improvements. Includes a simple pH test.
- Shelter planting
- Different gardening systems e.g. raised beds, containers, no-dig etc.
- Concepts such as Gardening by the moon
- Tools
- Compost
- Fertilisers
- Weeding & mulching
- Companion planting
- Fruit and nut guilds
- Timing of plantings & how to plant seasonally
- Types of plants
- Garden maintenance
- Irrigation
- Pest & disease prevention and control.
- & more!

After the consultation you will receive a full write in of our discussions, advice and next steps. You will also receive digital resources including:

- Digital gardening planner,
- Companion planting sheet,
- Seasonal planting guide
- Local resources list such as where to buy plants, tools etc

☆ Get in touch today – contact details on the back of the newsletter







## STONE FRUIT IN THE WAIKATO 101

If there is one type of fruit tree we get to ask about a lot of its stone fruits, more specifically Peaches, Nectarines, and Plums. Common questions are:

- ***Why is my fruit rotting on the tree?***
- ***When should I prune my trees?***
- ***Why is my leaf all curled up?***

These are just some of the questions we get, and we want to help by clearing up some confusion and some myths about stone fruit.

### ***Disease***

Now disease is a big one for stone fruit in the Waikato as our warm humid conditions in the spring and summer mean that it's a breeding ground for fungal disease such as Leaf Curl, Brown root and Silver leaf.

- Leaf Curl affects the growth of the leaf and causes it to curl and swell, to find out more about it look back at the Spring Fruit Burst newsletter where Leaf Curl is featured in our pest corner, past editions can be found on our website at: <https://kernowtreesandedibles.co.nz/resources-and-shop>.
- The other big one is Brown Rot. This affects Peach and Nectarine and causes the fruit to rot on the tree just before it ripens, read this issue pest corner for more information about the dreaded brown rot.
- Silver leaf which is a nasty disease that affects all Prunus species (all stone fruit including ornamental Cherries). The spores are released on colder wet days and infect the tree through open wounds in the tree i.e pruning cut.

Now this is just the common diseases, but you can see that they account for the leaf curling and fruit rotting on the tree questions. The next big one is the time of pruning and this is the biggest myth as most people believe that all fruit need pruning in the winter. This is not true. If we prune Stone fruit in the winter, we are leaving them very susceptible to Silver leaf disease due to the cold wet conditions. So, let's bust that myth, stone fruit pruning can be done from spring to autumn as long as it is warm dry weather. Traditionally, pruning is done in late summer after fruiting, however spring pruning is a good idea when a tree has been neglected for some time or is in its formative stages.



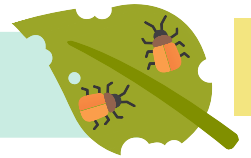
As you can see the odds aren't in favour of the stone fruit grower in the Waikato, but do not fear it can definitely be done. Here are some top tips to give you more success with your stone fruit:

- Pick more disease resistant varieties that are suited to your area, such as Louisa plums and Black boy peach. Another way to see what does well in your area is to have a nose at your neighbours and see what is doing well there (you could always take a cutting).
- Good hygiene will help along. This means cleaning your pruning tools and clearing disease leaf and fruit from the ground and tree, make sure you burn it or dispose of it off site, the spore can survive in your compost heap.
- Pruning and pruning times, as talked about above, pruning times are key to help prevent diseases like Silver leaf. But a well pruned tree that lets light and air circulate will help to reduce the condition for Leaf curl and Brown rot.
- Spray programs, spraying with natural/organic and non organic fungicides can help prevent and reduce Leaf curl, Brown rot and other disease but the time of year you spray is key.

We often get told by customers about what google told them to do about fruit tree pruning and care, but the key is to understand what the needs are of your tree and what your local factors are. Have you got any more burning questions? send us a message or give us a call.



**WHEN YOU'RE PRUNING KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR WASTE PILE, IT'S A GOOD INDICATOR OF HOW MUCH YOU'VE PRUNED OFF SO FAR. IT IS EASY TO GET INTO THE PRUNING ZONE AND TAKE TOO MUCH. SO TAKE A MINUTE TO STAND BACK, LOOK AT YOUR TREE AND LOOK AT YOUR WASTE PILE.**



## BROWN ROT

How often have you watched your beautiful Peach, Nectarine and Plum trees flower and develop lovely juicy looking fruit just to find right before they ripen, they rot on the tree! This is due to Brown rot *Sclerotinia fruiticola*, which infects the tree during flowering and entering through the flower, and then later, the fruit. It favours humid conditions which suits the Waikato to a tee. The signs and symptoms are:

- Small areas of brown rot that develop to become larger and cover the fruit.
- The emergence of a gummy/slimy substance from the stem (not always).
- The presence of last season's mummified fruit on the tree.

No one likes rotten fruit so what can you do about it? There are a few things you can do to help reduce or prevent brown rot:

- Keep your trees healthy so they have a better natural defence against all pathogens. This includes keeping the soil healthy.
- Prune the tree to allow good light and air flow and maintain spacing between branches to help reduce the spread of the infection and humid/wet condition in the crown.
- Good garden hygiene, disposing of dead and diseased material including fruit and cleaning tools..
- Spring and summer spray programme of copper fungicide from pre bud burst, bud burst, flowering, petal drop and shuck fall. Then 3 to 4 weeks till harvest make sure to read spray produced instructions.
- Choose a more disease resistant tree that suits your area.



**BROWN ROT ON  
DIFFERENT FRUITS**



# GARDENING CONCEPTS AROUND THE WORLD

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## HEDGES

At first hedges were rather accidental, just strips of woodland left after the early farmers cleared their fields. In Roman times, hedges became purposely planted rows of shrubs to mark property lines as well as control stock. In the 18th and 19th centuries hedge planting flourished as communal land used for grazing and farming was transferred to private ownership.

But over the years landowners in the UK and Ireland developed very intricate styles of planting hedges that make them virtually impermeable barriers. The process is known as ***hedge laying*** and refers to creating or maintaining a hedge by weaving partly cut branches through the upright stems of a row of shrubs. For instance the Devon style hedge is planted on top of a soil embankment and is used when it is important to create a barricade that livestock cannot breach. Other styles are used when one side of the hedge faces a field or a road.

The variety of plants that can be used for hedges is virtually limitless. You will need to take into consideration light, soil and weather conditions in order to select plants that will thrive in your location. Also think about how tall you would like your hedge to be, whether you want an evergreen or deciduous hedge, and whether you would like fall colour or flowers and fruit to attract wildlife. Of course, you don't actually have to choose just one plant. It is perfectly fine to mix types of plants in your hedge. Some classic plant choices for hedges are:

- Beauty.
- Wildlife haven. Shrubs serve as shelter and nesting areas for birds. Hedges made from plants that produce flowers and fruit (i.e. quince, abelia, juniper, holly) provide nourishment for bees, butterflies and birds.
- Reduce impact of noise and pollution.
- Act as a wind and weather buffer.
- Environmentally Friendly.
- Crime Deterrent.

Today, this labour-intensive technique has largely disappeared in Europe except for extensive traditional hedge laying in England.

Have a look on this [website](https://devonhedges.org/devon-hedges/) for photos, information and so much more!  
<https://devonhedges.org/devon-hedges/>

Hedges here in New Zealand are a mix of natives, low maintenance, edible hedgerows. Does anyone have a traditional hedgerow, or edible hedge? let us know!

Here's a link to a video about hedge-laying in England. Click [here](#)



We love learning more about our natural world and are going to recommend to you a book or podcast that we think you might like

## BOOKS

*Garden Pest and Disease control, NZ essential NZ guide by Bill Bret.*

This book is packed full of all your common and not so common pests and diseases that affect everything from your cabbage, peaches and roses. With aid to I.D them and treatment as well as an in depth breakdown of the different sprays and treatments.

*For the kids- RHS Under Your Feet Soil, Sand and other stuff*

Bursting with colourful illustrations and photography, this is the perfect book for budding young plant experts, animal fanatics, and geologists, and anyone who is curious about the ground we walk on.

*The Milkwood Permaculture Living Handbook*

*Habits for Hope in a Changing World* By: Kirsten Bradley.

The Milkwood Permaculture Living Handbook is your guide to improving your home, health and happiness - and the planet - one simple step at a time.

## PODCAST

Plant Talk radio is an hour long Q&A show. Fred is a walking encyclopedia of horticulture information and he answers listener questions in a friendly and entertaining way. Click [here](#)

<https://planttalkradio.com/>

## WEBSITES

[Tui Garden](#) is a great informative website

[The Royal Horticultural Society](#) is the UK's leading gardening charity whose purpose is to promote horticulture and gardening.

[Plantdoctor](#). A great source of information on plant pests and disease for a quick reference.

## TOP TIPS

OUR ADVICE IS TO READ AS MUCH AS YOU CAN, FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES, TO GET AN OVERALL PICTURE AND UNDERSTANDING. EVERYONE WILL SAY SOMETHING SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT. IT'S ABOUT PICKING THE RELEVANT INFORMATION WHICH WORKS FOR YOU, AND FOR THE CLIMATE WE LIVE IN.

## Subscription

If you're new to fruit Fruit Burst and don't want to miss out on future issues, just click the link below to subscribe.

<https://forms.gle/JkHrTEqMMFRF9ZDD8>



# FINAL THOUGHTS..

## »»»END OF 2023 AVAILABILITY

As we are approaching the end of the year, we have a few spaces left with both Dave and Bertie. Contact us before the mad lead up to christmas and the summer break to get your orchards and gardens sorted.

## »»»RODENTS

Keep an eye out for any signs of rats, mice, possums etc. Now is the time the come out and will destroy all your hard work byt eating seeds, seedlings, new fruit on trees and so on. start trapping! Predator free has amazing traps available, and information on their [website](#)

*Here is hoping for a dry (ish) warm, long summer ahead!  
Please don't hesitate to reach out to either of us for any  
questions or advice, we are more than happy to help.*

*Details are below...*

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE US TO WRITE ABOUT NEXT  
ISSUE? LET US KNOW!**

## CONTACT US



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