

Greenfingers' Compost Tips

Greenfingers is a keen supporter of home composting and wormeries.

Compost is produced when plant matter dies and breaks down into nutrients that feed the plants around it. This happens naturally in the forest. But Greenfingers makes it happen as well. We collect and compost 30,000 tonnes of greenwaste each year. That's about the same weight as 4285 large elephants, or 185 empty jumbo jets, or even 857,142, 857 wetapunga!



Getting started

Load a 3ft by 3ft heap or bin with a balanced mixture of 'brown' carbon rich material, like dried leaves, straw, and wood chips, and 'green' nitrogen materials like fresh grass clippings and kitchen scraps.

- Start with a layer of coarsely chopped twiggy woody material on bare soil or grass.
- Add alternate layers of green matter (nitrogen rich) and brown matter (carbon rich) in layers about 5-10cm deep.
- Limit all materials, including grass clippings, to thin layers.
- Leave gaps in your stack or turn it, and keep it moist and warm. For health, hygiene, and ease you shouldn't compost meat, fish, dairy products, oils, pet waste, coal or coke ash or disposable nappies.

A well maintained compost bin will produce compost in 3-4 months in summer and up to 6 months in winter. Compost feeds the soil, helps with water retention and encourages earthworms into your garden.

For more information visit www.greenfingers.co.nz

Greenfingers Bugs About Wetapunga Update

The young wetapunga hatched earlier this year as part of the Greenfingers Bugs About Wetapunga Breeding programme are doing very well and getting more robust.



Bayley and Lucia Richards visiting the wetapunga breeding programme.

Over 100 babies have survived to date, each living in their own container. At the hatching stage they were around 6-7mm long and some are now up to 20mm. Soon we will be able to determine how many boys and girls we have.

It is hoped that some will be ready for release this coming spring if their growth continues at this cracking pace, which will be the first time captive bred wetapunga have been released into the wild. We've got all our fingers (and antennae) crossed for that!

Butterfly Creek are continuing their special offer of 1 child free with a paying adult until the end of June.



Winter 2010

Leaf Turner

In this issue... Winter still good for gardening - From Mike's desk - Sorting it - Hamilton Marathon - Wetapunga update - Greenfingers' Collection Calendar

Ruud Kleinpaste (the Bugman) - winter still good for gardening

Contrary to popular opinion, this time of the year is fantastic for the preventative garden jobs that make your spring and summer such a brilliant season. There's plenty to do and it all makes so much sense.

Had an infestation of Passionvine hoppers (and fluffybums) last summer? Well, all their eggs are overwintering – right now – in their millions in your garden. All you need to know is what they look like, then hunt them down, cut them out and burn them in the fireplace.

If you look at the tendrils of climbing plants (or any thin, woody twiggy stalks) you'll notice regularly placed fluffy extrusions; each one represents an egg-laying site for passionvine hoppers. Get rid of them all and you'll start the season with millions fewer fluffybums.

Snails and slugs a hassle? Go out on a dewy winter night with a headlight and collect as many of them in a jar or bucket.



Passionvine hopper eggs

Then dispose of them as you see fit...

Of course, winter time is when molluscs are most numerous, so baiting them is a timely exercise – I use a partially buried container with slug bait, so that it stays dry and the rotters die out of reach of thrushes and other non-target species.

Dispose of the old fungal spore-infested leaves under roses and other ornamentals; it'll prevent re-infestation in spring. If you go around with a copper/sulphur fungus spray for winter, don't forget to dose the soil around the plants as well.

Oh – and noticed how Mother Nature deposited all those masses of autumn

leaves around the place? This is not "waste", but a resource to gardeners!

You see, when the earth is covered by those leaves for winter it allows little bugs to recycle them into fabulous humus for the soil; better structure, better

moisture retention in dry summer months and, potentially, a much better soil fertility.

So... get a rake and get on with it!

Go out on a dewy winter night with a headlight and collect as many of them in a jar or bucket



GARDEN COLLECTION CALENDAR

Please write your customer number here

PIN Number

Your PIN number is the last 4 digits of your registered phone number.

24 hour service

Manage your account online

www.gardenbags.co.nz

JUNE 2010 NOV 2010

Please mark your collection week with a tick



4 Weekly Customers Only (except where restricted)

You may skip 2 collections per year if your bag or bin is empty. HOWEVER, you MUST contact us before 3pm on the Friday prior to your collection week otherwise the normal collection charge will apply

JUNE 2010							JULY 2010							AUGUST 2010							SEPTEMBER 2010							OCTOBER 2010							NOVEMBER 2010																																																																																																																														
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S																																																																																																																								
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Please use the internet for your enquiries www.gardenbags.co.nz
 If you do not have internet access then please phone:
 Monday - Friday 8.30am - 2.30pm
 Wicksteed Garden Bags (07) 838 2272
 Bouranga (07) 847 1877
 Auckland (09) 574 6285
 Outside Free Call Area 0800 82 00 01

Collections generally completed Monday to Saturday

Christmas break & Public Holidays are indicated with a box

From Mike's desk

Welcome to the Winter issue of LeafTurner.

Although the days are shorter and the drought is breaking, there is still plenty to do in the garden. It is also time to get the spring bulbs in!

Greenfingers are thrilled to be sponsoring the Hamilton Kids Marathon. We think that caring for community health is important and this is a great way for us to encourage children to get fit in a manageable way. Running small chunks at a time is the way to go.

I thought I would pop in some compost tips on the back page, as like Ruud says, it is a good time to get the leaves, mulch and compost put throughout the garden. Enriching the soil now will mean your garden flourishes next season. It has been an awfully dry summer so anything we can do to get the soil rich for another season will help.

I have also included an updated collections calendar this issue that runs to the end of November.

As always, we value your feedback and welcome any questions. So if you require any assistance with your garden waste please call the Greenfingers team on 0800 82 00 00.



Managing Director

Garden Bags On-Line

Did you know we have a website with features that will make it easier for you to communicate with us and look at your account information?

We have personalised pages just for you with a security PIN. You can view your statement, make a payment, postpone a collection and order bags – all online.

We recommend you get registered on www.gardenbags.co.nz



Planting for World Environment Day

Greenfingers donated funds to the Project Crimson Trust for this year's World Environment Day 5 June 2010.

The donation was used towards the Albany Primary School 'Treemendous' makeover where over 600 trees were planted into a new landscape. Project Crimson is a programme of planting pohutukawa and rata in their natural habitat in areas they have declined. They have just celebrated 20 years of planting.

www.projectcrimson.org.nz

Sorting it

There is a strong case to collect more food waste in New Zealand. By doing so we can make a significant reduction to the amount of waste we are currently sending to landfill.

Reducing what goes to landfill is better for the environment because landfill generates methane which is a rather potent greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming.

A UK study* has concluded that collecting general household waste less often and actually collecting food waste more often, shows an increase in both dry food waste and recyclable collectables.

Yet if we can separate out this food waste and compost it, then it makes a great addition to compost that can be used on gardens.

Collecting food waste separately from green waste is usually cheaper because you can use smaller trucks to collect it frequently (e.g. weekly), while garden



waste can be collected less often (e.g. monthly).

Also, if they are collected separately then most of the garden waste does not have to go through the more expensive process and can be composted much more cheaply.

Greenfingers is investigating options to start collecting foodwaste. Watch this space.

* WRAP, Sustainable ways of dealing with household food and garden waste in the UK, May 2007



SBS Bank Hamilton

Half Marathon



Greenfingers is proud to announce its sponsorship of the Hamilton Kids' Marathon 2010

Greenfingers are keen supporters of the great outdoors!

This year's Greenfingers Kids' Marathon will be held in conjunction with the annual SBS Bank Hamilton Half Marathon on Sunday 3 October 2010.

Our customers say because they get busy out in the garden that they are also getting fit and healthy out in the sun and fresh air. We think supporting children with their fitness at a young age is good for the community so we are investing in their health by supporting the Hamilton Kids' Marathon.



Last year's competitors setting off for their last couple of kilometres

But how on earth can a child run a marathon?

Of course they can't do this in one go but taken in chunks of a few kilometres a week means they can tally up the total distance of 42.195 kilometres.

The aim is to run the first 40km of a full marathon distance in the two months leading up to the SPS Bank Hamilton Half Marathon, for example running one kilometre almost every day, then on event day complete the final 2.195km on the actual half marathon course.

This unique event offers children from 5-18 years the chance to run the distance of a marathon and finish at the Flagstaff Park Headquarters.

Greenfingers Managing Director, Mike Jones is awarding a five hundred dollar sporting goods voucher to the school which enrolls the most children per capita of the roll. There are also two major spot prizes for one boy and one girl who enter the kids' marathon.

Children who cross the finish line (and have logged their 40km before hand) will receive a racing pack, a t-shirt, a special achievement certificate and a medal.

As well as new courses - including a one lap circuit for the feature event - the SBS Bank Hamilton Half Marathon has a new headquarters at Flagstaff Park, Commodore Ave, Flagstaff.

The new course for the feature event takes in a loop of Harrowfield before heading south on River Rd, using riverside paths where possible. It crosses to the west side of the river over Victoria Bridge and follows the river north, takes in a detour through Braithwaite Park, crosses over the Sewer Bridge by Alandale, and heads back to Flagstaff Park and the finish.

Competitors in the 10km and 5km events will take in river paths and some of Hamilton's beautiful northern parks.

Be in to win:

Merit prize pool of \$7500.

Spot prize pool of \$15,000.

Online entries now open at www.hamiltonhalfmarathon.org.nz.

Download an entry form or call 0800HAMHALF (0800 426 425)