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## NEWSLETTER

**April 2021**

### *Equine Pasture for calm healthy horses.*

Here at Kiwi Seed we have invested time to design a herbal blend to compliment our Equine pasture mix. The Equine herb blend can be added to the equine pasture mix or be sown in a separate area of the paddock and treated as a hospital paddock. Both blends are non ryegrass, the herbal blend is non clover.

Pastures consisting almost exclusively of grasses tend to be bacterially dominant where as mixed pastures will have a more favourable balance of beneficial fungi, protozoa, micro-arthropods, ciliates, amoeba etc. A full spectrum of microbiology is essential for optimum livestock health.

At Kiwi Seed we have specialised in permanent non ryegrass mixes complimented by herbs to increase animal health and biodiversity. Best part of it, it actually works.

If you haven't already, now is the ideal time to sow your horse pasture.

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### *Health Hazards for Horses in Autumn*

Autumn is the optimum time for fungi in pastures. Once you start spotting Mushrooms and toadstools about, you will know that there are plenty of fungi creating toxins in pasture.

You may notice behavioural changes in your horse such as head flicking, spooking more often or short stepping.

Adding a toxin binder such as PlacideToxin Aid + or Provideit Toxall to your horses daily feed and preferably splitting it between two feeds should help to minimise effects, but it is not a cure and removing your horse from pasture is the best option for severe cases.

Increase your horses intake of Magnesium, Sodium and Calcium over autumn to help with mineral imbalances. Oral Mag is a great way to increase levels with 1 dose every 10 days. Magnesium Oxide given daily in feed is also a cost effective way to treat.

Watch out for mud fever if weather becomes wet. Use Keratex Mud Shield Powder as a preventative.



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### *Helping Your Chickens through the Molt*

If they haven't started already, your chickens will soon be molting to grow new feathers for winter.

At this time they will go off the lay and will start to look very scruffy.

Here are a few tips to help them get through this period.

- \* Increase the protein in their diet. Feathers are 80% protein so your chickens need more protein in their diets to cope with growing a full new set of feathers.

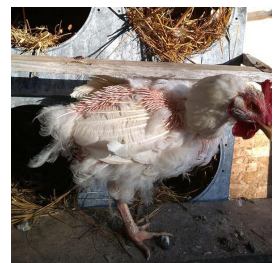
Take them off their regular layers pellets and replace with Pullet Pellets or Meatbird Pellets which are higher protein mixes.

Keep grit available for your hens as they will still require a small amount of calcium.

- \* Feed your hens protein rich treats such as Peas, cooked meat, Sunflower seeds, Meal Worms and Linseed.

These should be used as a treat only as they can be high in fat.

- \* Limit stress. Keep to their usual routine. Ensure they have plenty of clean water available. Try not to introduce any new chickens to the flock during this time. Now is not the time for remodeling the coop or moving them to a new home.



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### *Stock Feed Options Available*

With the current long dry period we are experiencing, feed is short and it is time to search out supplement options if you haven't done so already.

For small numbers of stock we have bagged options available that will suit most budgets.

For larger numbers, give Bruce a call on 0274 322 750 to discuss tonne lot options.

## Out in the garden

April

This month is really about pruning, feeding and planting,

Autumn is the best time to plant new trees and shrubs including roses, so they can get established over the cooler winter months.

Adding Daltons Orchard or Landscape pellets or other long term fertilisers at planting time is recommended.

Prune back flowering shrubs, dead head established roses and others to maintain size also to prevent plants from becoming too dense and to encourage new blooms.

If you haven't planted any spring bulbs yet, now is your last chance to do so.

Feed Citrus with Citrus fertiliser to promote healthy autumn growth.

Remember to protect next years fruit crop against leaf curl, leaf blight, leaf spot, mildew black spot and citrus scab by applying copper and/or sulphur based products at recommended rates after rains.

### Lawns

One of the best months for sowing a new lawn or patching the existing lawn is April.

Soil temperatures are still warm enough and autumn rains are coming.

Once established follow up with light application of lawn fertiliser and keep controlling your weeds.



### Veggies

Compost fallen leaves of healthy trees and spent cash crops like tomato's and corn. Start harvesting pumpkins as their veins begin to die off. Pumpkins should sound hollow when you gently knock. Keep a bit of stalk attached, pumpkins won't rot this way. Sow seeds of beetroot, broccoli, broad beans, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, onions, radish, spinach, swedes and turnips directly into your garden bed.

## Are Your Stock Getting the Minerals they Need?

New Zealand soils are deficient in some of the minerals that our stock require, which is why we need to look at supplementing.

Keep them in optimal health over winter by supplying them with multi mineral salt licks or a Molasses mineral lick.

If feeding supplement feeds, a product such as Livamol can be used to help with skin and coat condition, growth and mineral balance.

If you think your stock are not "doing" as well as they should, it could likely be a deficiency. You vet can carry out a blood test to pinpoint any issues.



Samuel Showman

### Duck shooting special

Duck Feed 15kg—\$5

Barley, Rye corn, Wheat, Maize and Peas also available

**We would like to do our bit for the environment by sending out our accounts and newsletters via email.**

Please subscribe by emailing us at [info@kiwiseed.co.nz](mailto:info@kiwiseed.co.nz).

You can also use the same address to unsubscribe from the newsletter if you wish.

**Thank you from all at Kiwi Seed.**