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NEWSLETTER

April 2023

Equine Pasture for 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.

Horse Health Pointers in Autumn

Over autumn when the grass is so out of balance it is advisable to increase your horse's intake of magnesium, calcium, sodium and to feed a toxin binder twice a day.

Keep an eye out for Mud Fever.

Try to give horses somewhere dry to stand and get out of the mud.

Treat symptoms quickly.

Vetpro Mud Fever Packs available in store.

Feed plenty of hay to prevent horses from eating too much of the young, fresh grass available. If letting them out to graze for a few hours daily, do this in the morning before the sugar levels rise in the grass.

AUTUMN CHICKEN CARE

Chickens will be moulting at this time of year. Now is not the time to be stingy with their food because they are not laying. They need good quality high protein food to get them through the moult and set them up to start laying again sooner.

Change them to Pullet Pellets which is higher in protein or supplement with mealworms, sunflower seeds, peas oats or cooked leftover meat.

Feed a grain mix like Chook Treat or Chook Brew in the evenings to help keep your chickens warm at night. Grains generate heat when they are being digested.

Keep up the supplementation of shell grit as they require calcium to grow feathers

Start your rodent control program around the coop with bait stations and bait that chickens can not get into.

As the weather gets cooler the rodents will be looking for warm places to nest and a good food source.

Give the coop a good scrub, once dry dust with diatomaceous earth and lay fresh bedding.



Keep checking sheep daily for fly strike

The earliest sign of flystrike is irritation which can be seen as tail twitching, stomping, and rubbing or biting the affected area. This is then followed a few days later with shade seeking, a lack of appetite and sheep that appear depressed. Dehydration follows. If left untreated, severely affected sheep usually die due to loss of fluid, protein and electrolytes as well as toxemia due to the tissue damage. Treated sheep can take up to 6 weeks to regain lost condition and up to 8 months for recovery of the fleece. Treat quickly by removing wool around affected area and treating with Maggo. Now available in store.

Flower Garden

Remove spent summer flowering annuals and plant your favourite winter flowers. For best results, prepare the soil by digging in Daltons Compost and Daltons Landscape Pellets.

Trim back all summer perennials when flowering has finished. These can be dug up, divided and replanted, or just wait for them to resprout back in Spring.

Prune back flowering hydrangeas and hebes that have finished flowering.

Dead head established roses and start planning for your new season roses. Prepare new planting sites now with Daltons Compost.

Vege Garden

Once all fruit trees are harvested, spray pip and stone fruit trees with Yates Liquid Copper to protect against leaf curl, leaf blight, leaf spots, downy mildew, black spot and verrucosis.

Place a layer of Daltons Mulch and Grow in your vege garden to keep soil temperatures warm.

Giving your winter vege patch a rest over winter? Add nutrients back in the soil by sowing a crop of blue lupin, mustard seed or Kiwi Seed Green Manure Mix which adds nitrogen and improves soil structure.

Feed citrus trees with Kiwi Seed Citrus Fert to promote strong healthy Autumn growth.



Lawns

This is the best month for sowing a new lawn or repairing your existing. We have a great range of lawn seed including Super Fine, Regular and Hardy.

Use Daltons Lawn Soil to help patch low or bare spots.

Feed your lawn with a dressing of Lawn Fert.



Control your horses parasites by treating it with Ultra Mox and/ or Equitak Excel during the early autumn, both products are suitable for all Ages of Horses at this time of the year.



TIPS FOR FEEDING WILD BIRDS IN THE GARDEN

- Hang Feeders out of harms way so rodents and predators can not reach them.
- Clean Feeders every time they are refilled to prevent the spread of disease.
- Keep feeders topped up regularly so birds know where they can access food.
- Use Kiwi Seed Wild Bird Mix to offer a good range of seed that is grown here in New Zealand.
- Put out different types of feeders to cater for all the birds in your garden. Seed feeder for finches and sparrows, fruit or suet based food (truffles, logs, cakes) for waxeyes and silvereyes, nectar feeder for Tui and Bellbirds.



WILD BIRD SEED

2KG	- \$3.50
5KG	- \$8.50
10KG	- \$16.50
25KG	- \$30.00



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.

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

Thank you from all at Kiwi Seed.