

Custom Mix

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Lyndale Custom Compost - August 2023

Weather report

I really don't like talking about the weather in these blogs, but I find on looking at past editions that I do quite often.

In my defense, there is a burning reason why we cannot avoid this conversation at this time. This has been covered previously; however, it is still very topical; That is to say, the weather has been crap since last spring, through summer and autumn, followed by a winter that had a feel of past winters, but hey, it was a winter which followed three concurrent seasons that saw gardens and backyards as things that people peered at (hoping that a landslip had not relocated it), through sheets of rain while staying resolutely inside and leaving the country headed to warmer, drier climates.



The weather left the Gardens and backyards as things that people peered at through sheets of rain.

Good New Stories

The All Blacks performances have been a ray of sunshine, as has the Womans World Cup, despite our early departure. This FIFA (Federation International Football Association) event is a way bigger event than most Kiwis understood. The focus it brings on New Zealand is intense and, sadly, at a time when our politics, gearing up for an October election, start to get grubby, a shooting or two and an arson attempt in a team hotel have done nothing for our international reputation. Still, the fans came and are spending money in our economy, long may it continue.

The weather has strung together a few fine days and even some pretty good weekends, which has shown that all is not lost for the garden industry.

Sunshine + Hints of Spring =Tills that Ring.

At Custom Mix, we notice it the week following a fine weekend as gaps appear in nurseries and potting stock for late spring/ summer sales get ramped up.

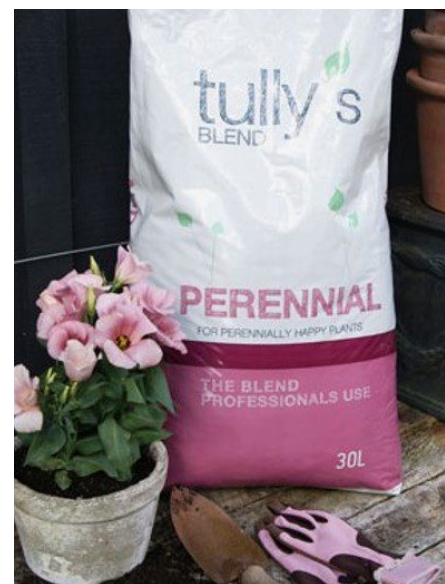
Retail sales of bagged potting mixes also have started to escalate, a sure sign of people venturing onto their backyards and balconies.

We are still battling price increases, particularly of fertilizers and transport as fuel prices continue to wander upwards and flow through to everything that is transported.

Focusing on transport, fixing our rundown and often wrecked infrastructure Roads, rail, and coastal shipping, for a start) has to be a priority for any political entity that wants a slice of the top job.



The FIFA (Federation International Football Association) event is more significant than most Kiwis understood.



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I have driven around a bit in the last month from Whangarei (state highway one north has gone from bad to embarrassing) to the south of Napier (Esk Valley is bad, but wow, anywhere near a river is a sobering testament to how we need to invest in infrastructure and resilience).

The South Island is a positive haven, and MANY families are moving south and west as a regular flow of people take the plunge to relocate to the west island, Australia.

For many leaving the sentiment expressed by the former All Black entrepreneur and television class clown, the effervescent Mark Ellis (as he relocated to Italy) said it all “New Zealand has lost its mojo”, he said. He said, “I certainly think New Zealand’s finest days are behind it”.

Ouch, and he is not alone. This leaves us all who are still here to turn the lights on, to get to and ask some awkward questions, such as why is the productivity per capita so low and getting worse. Plus, of course, doing our best to do something about it.

Quick to mind is the often-quoted 1980 comment from Sir Robert Muldoon that “New Zealanders who leave for Australia raise the IQ of both countries”.

However, with a net loss to Australia from NZ hitting 35,300 in the year to September, it is time to start to address the issues that are factors in the decision-making process leading to young people relocating to Australia in particular.



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Leaving us here to turn the lights on and ask why productivity is low.

Trade Day

The North Island Spring Nursery Industry Trade Day is set to be held on the 9th of August at the Claudelands Event Centre, Hamilton.

This will be an interesting barometer of the health of the industry as we move out of wet and wetter conditions into a positive dryer spring. (Yes, I am an optimist).

With the world (northern hemisphere) having just received its first real taste of a planet that is 1.5C hotter than pre-industrial times, there is no better time to promote the importance of shade and trees in urban environments.

The Australian industry has done a lot of excellent work around the benefits of shade trees, including quantifying the energy savings achieved with shade trees in cooling offices and dwellings, hence savings made on electricity used power Air Conditioning units etc.

Planting anything, especially trees, has got to be a positive thing that everyone can participate in as a solution to our changing climatic circumstances. Instead, in NZ, a culture of biosecurity fear has been built over recent years around none native plants as dangerous to our environment.

The British have got it right; if it grows, welcome it. Everything green and growing creates a habitat that will benefit some creatures; who are we to play God and decide the long-term best?

Keep Growing, and remember, use Lyndale Custom Mix; **PLANTS LOVE THE DIFFERENCE.**

Kind regards
The Custom Mix Team



Trade Days bring you the latest and best of plants, products and services from the NZ nursery industry.



Planting anything, especially trees has got to be a positive thing



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