

Buckingham

Garden Centre

'Passionate about gardening'

NEWSLETTER

**NOVEMBER /
DECEMBER 2013 ISSUE**

WHAT'S INSIDE

Christmas Gift Ideas,
Your Gardening Tasks,
Meet The Winners of
Our Potato & Marrow
Competitions, Rootgrow
Advice, A Bit Chilli New
Products, win a car and
much more...

There is always a sense of wonder at this time of the year, whether it's the build up to Christmas with the family, the opportunity to plant bulbs to welcome the spring, or the fact that we are entering nature's natural planting time for the successful establishment of bare-rooted hedges, trees, fruit and shrubs. However, the month of November is also a time where we reflect as The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal reminds us of their amazing welfare work which is a lifeline for the thousands of serving and ex-service people we help with their annual Poppy Appeal. August 14th 2014 will be the 100th anniversary of the start of World War One and the whole of the gardening trade is encouraging us to commemorate this by sowing poppy seeds in our gardens, hedgerows, fields and pots to see the bright red Flanders poppies covering the UK. It will be spectacular especially as these beautiful poppies are so attractive to wildlife, including bees, as the flowers are nectar-rich.

Finally, don't forget we'll have plenty of voucher offers instore running through December, so check these out on your next visit. Until then from everyone at the Garden Centre have a great festive season and enjoy your garden whatever the weather.



Step into Christmas

At Christmas, our Garden Centre is a winter wonderland of sparkling ideas and inspiration. Whether you're decorating your home and garden, or buying gifts, you'll find everything you need amongst our displays.

This year's Christmas offerings, all set out in themed areas, are White/Gold; Burgundy/Silver/Pink; Blue/Silver/Purple; Red/Green and Woodland. We'll also have dedicated areas given over to artificial wreaths and garlands as well as Christmas indoor and outdoor lighting.

New this year we'll also have a special children themed area featuring a host of games, toys, tree decorations and stocking fillers.

You can also complete your Christmas present list from us with ideal presents for all the family. Our plant and gardening range is as big as ever as we have plenty of space, we also have books, cards, calendars, soft toys, kitchenware, ornaments, vases, mugs, jigsaws, family games, bird care, clothing, candles, toiletries, aquatics, tools, and much more. If you are still struggling to solve the present for the friend who has everything one of our staff may be able to point you in the right direction, or failing that we sell our Garden Centre Gift Vouchers so that they can select their own gift. For friends and relatives further afield, we also stock HTA Garden Centre Vouchers too, and these can be redeemed at outlets throughout the country.

Our food department is bursting at the seams with Christmas goodies - chocolates, cakes, mince pies for Christmas Day plus all our usual biscuits, jams, patés, cakes, chutneys, honey and pickles. You can also enjoy a wide range of local beers and wines (over 18's only) from the likes of Buckingham Brewery, The Concrete Cow Brewery, Fleur Field Wines and Manor Fields Wines amongst others.

Our real Christmas trees arrive in the last week of November; beautifully shaped they are sourced from the best UK growers, including cut (Nordmann Fir and Noble Fir) and pot-grown trees (Nordmann Fir and Norway Spruce). These trees will not disappoint, providing you follow the care instructions. We'll net them for you and take them straight to your car or for the larger trees we can deliver them directly to your home, subject to a delivery charge.

English grown Poinsettias and Cyclamen will be available from late November, plus we'll have a fantastic range of planted gift arrangements and orchids, too. We offer a

comprehensive gift wrap service for all indoor plants and small gift items.

Over the three weekends running up to Christmas delicious mince pies and fruity mulled wine (fruit squash as a non-alcoholic alternative) will be offered to all our Garden Centre customers.



OUR PLANTS OF THE MONTH



Skimmia Japonica Rubella

Check out our displays of beautiful Skimmias for November and heavenly flowers on Hellebores through December.



YOUR FAVOURITE 'MARMITE' PLANTS?



What an autumn for colourful berries it's been! writes Chris Day. Holly berries are developing nicely, Pyracanthas seemed to have excelled themselves, many crab apple trees have produced reasonably sized fruits, despite the season, which are stunning. However, it's *Callicarpa bodinieri* 'Profusion', (RHS AGM) which has really stolen the show this autumn. Those Smartie-like violet-purple berries form in dense

clusters along the stems. Now we know this plant, rightly or wrongly, comes along under the rather unfair category of a "Marmite" plant! Why? Well we know quite a few customers who find the positioning of this shrub difficult with other plants, or some find the berries are "over the top", or the plant is, simply, just plain lurid!

Now, here's a thing... are there any plants you know or have come across which could be put under the classification of a "Marmite" plant? Do please let us know – we'd be pleased to beg to differ!

IS THIS OUR NEW GARDENING ENEMY NO1?



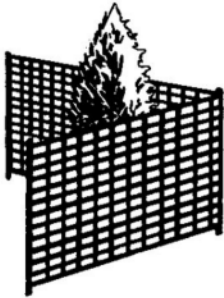
If you've seen this in your garden, it's the Spanish Slug and it is recommended you report your sighting to Slug Watch!

Check out www.slugwatch.co.uk

Image courtesy of Dr Roy Anderson

10 TASKS FOR NOVEMBER – DECEMBER

CHECK that light levels are sufficient for houseplants. They will need light to thrive during the winter, and can easily be forgotten in a back or spare room that receives little natural light, or with the curtains left drawn. They are best moved to sunny windowsill until March next year. If your Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*) failed to set flower buds, it may be that the temperature is too high (above 18°C/65°F), or that the plant is receiving light from an artificial light source after dark. Try moving the cactus into cooler conditions or away from night lighting.



SHRUBS normally pruned hard in the spring - such as Buddleja davidii, Cornus alba and Lavatera - can be cut back by half now, to prevent wind rock and neaten their appearance. Protect newly planted trees, hedges and shrubs from wind and cold. A temporary netting windbreak is helpful where there is no natural shelter. Straw, bracken, or something similar can be used to pack around deciduous plants and protect them from frost.

PLANT Tulip bulbs by the end of November. Some Tulips persist year to year whereas some perform less well and are treated as bedding, and are replaced every year. Following on from planting your tulips, other winter bedding plants such as Wallflowers, Forget-Me-Nots, Bellis, Primula, Viola and Winter Pansies can be planted to provide maxim colour next spring. When doing this plant them into well-prepared ground, or pots containing a suitable multi-purpose compost.



CLEAN and sharpen secateurs ready for pruning deciduous trees and shrubs over the winter. Special ceramic tools are available to allow awkwardly shaped and angled blades to be sharpened with ease. Spare springs and replacement blades can also be purchased for more expensive models such as Felco. Be aware that decking and stone slabs can become slippery in wet weather, with slimy algal growth exacerbating the situation. Chicken wire stapled onto the decking, temporary mats, and regular cleaning with Patio Magic, available in the Shop, can all help to reduce the risk of slippage.



GRASS will continue to grow in temperatures above 5°C (41°F), so if the weather remains mild it may be necessary to use the mower to keep the lawn in trim. Ensure the cut is 3-5mm higher than during the summer to prevent turf stress. Adjust as required (pictured). Likewise, watch your lawn for signs of waterlogging, as the weather gets wetter. You may be able to remedy this with some maintenance - either now, next spring, or the following autumn.



PONDS Start feeding your fish with Nishikoi Wheatgerm (350g, £7.99) once the cold weather arrives. You can still divide hardy waterlilies and pond plants and cut back overgrown marginal plants, if required. Rake out fallen leaves or shake off those that have gathered on protective

netting. Give winter protection to Gunnera by cutting off old leaves and placing them over the crown of the plants.



CHRISTMAS TREE CARE Place Christmas trees away from fireplaces, radiators, heat vents and anything else that could dry the needles. Keep your Christmas tree well watered from the time it is brought home until it is discarded. Always opt for a Christmas tree stand (pictured) which has a good capacity water reservoir built into its design – it will save you time topping it up throughout the festive season.



QUICK FIXES Use a seasonal bonfire - where this is allowed - to dispose of excess debris unfit for composting. Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees by using grease bands around the trunks. Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging. Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubble wrap works well.



Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem.

ROOTGROW How to mix the Rootgrow Gel. Many of you will be planting hedging, young trees and fruit over the coming months, so we thought it would be useful to include some detailed instructions on how to get the best from your Rootgrow Gel. You can also check the online video of this on our website at:

<http://www.buckinghamgardencentre.co.uk/gardenvideos.html>

1. Take a large bucket and fill with the required amount of water. (Always start with the lesser amount and just add more if required following step 2.)
2. Sprinkle the contents of the sachet of white gel powder into the water, and stir well. You are looking for a consistency that relates to that of wallpaper paste. If your plants have a dense or more fibrous root system, make the solution slightly thinner.
3. Leave for 5 minutes then add the Rootgrow granules and stir. The granules should be suspended evenly throughout the thick liquid.
4. **Dip the roots of the plants in this gel and allow coverage of the whole root system.** If the liquid seems too thick add up to 1 more litre of water. Lift the plants out allowing excess to drain back into the bucket and plant immediately.
5. If there is any gel left over it should be used within 48 hours and should be covered. Stir it well before using it.

Quantities of water to use

360g with Gel Sachet 4 litres

1kg with Gel Sachet 8 - 12 litres

2.5 litre Professional Bucket 15 - 20 litres

5 litre Professional Bucket 30 - 40 litres

10 litre Professional Bucket 60 - 80 litres

SEASONAL COLOUR *Helleborus niger* (Christmas rose) blooms can look unsightly when splashed with muddy raindrops. Putting a bark chip mulch around them will reduce this splashing effect, and cloches can always be used where practical. Pot up *Hippeastrum* (Amaryllis) in early November, and bring them back into active growth with regular watering. They should give you beautiful flowers for the New Year.



Finally, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a lovely red Poinsettia (pictured). It is essential you position the plant in good light away from direct sunlight and draughts. Avoid temperatures below 55°F (13°C). Overwatering too, quickly damages the plant. When the surface of the compost begins to dry out, water thoroughly. Place the pot on a pebble tray, as a humid atmosphere will prolong the bract life. The process to encourage new bracts can be complicated so ask in the Plant Info Office if you need the details. However successfully re-bracting a plant is something you should have a go at and if you do succeed you can say you've cracked it!

NEW CATALOGUE OUT NOW

Our new-look, new format 2013-2014 Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre catalogue is out now! It has changed size to A5 to reduce the cost of postage, but it still has the same amount of information as previous catalogues. It's packed with a wealth of information and advice, and it features the best in hedging, fruit (top and soft), ground cover plants, shrubs, trees and much more.

To whet your appetite, a new crab apple, *Malus* 'Rosehip', eight new Clematis varieties including 'Dr Ruppel', 'Ernest Markham' and 'Rhapsody' are included together with a new line up of root-wrapped Climbing and Rambling Roses in the 31-page catalogue. Do pick one up at the Customer Service Desk on your next visit. Alternatively, call our Mail-Order Department on 01280 827925 and we can get one posted out to you.



WIN A FORD FIESTA*!

BUCKINGHAMFORD



We've teamed up with Buckingham Ford to give YOU the opportunity to win a Ford Fiesta as well as Garden Centre Vouchers to the value of £225* from Buckingham Garden Centre. See in store for details from Thursday 14th November.

*Terms & Conditions apply.

LAUNCH OF A SUPERB LOCAL PRODUCT



Those who came to our recent Apple Week-end may have had the pleasure to have tasted some of the superb products produced by a true 'cottage industry' in nearby Wendover, who have aptly called themselves 'A Bit Chilli', writes Pauline Brown. Phil and Sallie launched 'A Bit Chilli' as they have a mission to increase awareness of the wide range of flavours, as well as heat, that



chillies can offer. Thousands of different varieties exist around the world and they are used not only to add piquancy to food, but to enhance the flavour of cuisines as diverse as Hungarian, Indian, Mexican and Thai. In fact it is estimated that three quarters of the world's population include chillies in their diet on a regular basis so it could be said that it is the most widely used seasoning on the planet!



At the Apple Week-end, the product I personally thought really good was their Lemon Drop Curd. I would never have considered putting chilli with lemon curd, but they have used The Lemon Drop Chilli, a South American chilli which has its roots in Peru and Brazil. The chilli, which ripens from green to yellow and has a distinctive citrus flavour with a searing clean heat, was practically unknown in the west until the 1990s, but is now gaining popularity due to its distinctive tropical fruit flavour.

The Lemon Drop Curd is a dairy free lemon chilli curd made with fresh lemon juice and coconut milk. The heat of the Lemon Drop Chilli fires up this delicious lemon curd and the coconut milk adds a creamy smooth texture and taste. I used some of mine in a French Apple Tart and all agreed it was wonderful giving the Tart a distinctive and unusual flavour.

Another in their range is The Scotch Bonnet Scorching Ketchup. Scotch Bonnet chillis are pretty high on the Scoville Scale – some 100,000 to 350,000 Scoville units – so this ketchup has quite a kick. Although hot and fiery it has a good fruity flavour having been made with roasted red peppers, red onions, Bramley apples and balsamic vinegar, so it has a distinctive Caribbean flavour.

Apart from these two unusual products they also have a range of four chutneys with hotness varying from mild to extra hot. The mildest is Jalapeno Juicy Chutney (2,000 to 5,000 Scoville units). The Jalapeno Chilli is probably the best known chill in the world and gets its name from the town of Jalapa in Mexico. It has a sweet heat and a delicious thick green flesh. The Chutney is made with tomatoes and red onion and balsamic vinegar and has a lovely juicy texture and taste.

SCOVILLE CHILE HEAT CHART

SCOVILLE HEAT UNITS	TYPES OF PEPPERS
15,000,000	Pure Capsaicin
2,000,000-5,300,000	U.S. Grade Pepper Spray
1,000,000	Bhut Jolokia
577,000	Red Savina
200,000-350,000	Habanero
100,000-250,000	Chiltepin
30,000-50,000	Cayenne
15,000-30,000	Arbol
12,000-30,000	Manzano
8,000-23,000	Serrano
5,000-8,000	Yellow Hot
3,500-8,000	Jalepeño Pepper
2,500-4,000	Guajillo
1,500-2,500	Chilaca
1,000-2,500	Pasilla
1,000-2,000	Pablano
500-2,000	Anaheim
500-1,500	Chile Verde
500-1,000	Yellow Genetics
500-750	Red Chile
0	Sweet Bells



Moving up to 8,000 to 20,000 Scoville units is the Serrano Smokey Chutney, made with Serrano Chillis. Serrano literally means 'from the mountains' in Spanish and its origin is in the mountains of northern Puebla in Mexico. It is regarded as the hottest chilli grown in the United States and has a clean biting heat and a sharper hotter taste than the Jalapeno. This chutney combines this clean heat with red onion and smoked paprika creating distinctive medium chilli chutney which is delicious with cheese or used as a dip for cold crudités.

A little hotter comes Bird's Eye Blazer Chutney with 100,000 to 200,000 Scoville units. Bird's Eye chilli is bullet shaped as are the Serrano and Jalapeno chillis, and is the main chilli pepper used in South-East Asian cuisine. It is a thin walled chilli with thin flesh and a large number of seeds and is characterised by a dry, lingering heat and is commonly used to give a bite to stir fries. The Chutney is made with apple and spices and is a fruity tribute to the chilli's East Asian roots. The spicy mouth-watering flavours come from the use of ginger, cumin and cinnamon and make it a perfect dip with poppadoms before, after or during your favourite curry. Phil and Sallie say it works just as well with an early morning sausage sandwich, but I leave that to your judgement!



And finally there is Scotch Bonnet Scorcher Chutney, made with the Scotch Bonnet Chilli and this has a rating of 100,000 to 350,000 Scoville units. The Scotch Bonnet Chilli is extensively grown in Jamaica and this really hot chilli gets its name from the shape of the fruit which resembles a Tam o' Shanter, a hat worn in Scotland. The distinct flavour of Scotch Bonnet Chillis has been described as floral, aromatic and almost smokey and they have a distinct apricot-like aroma. The chutney is not for the faint hearted as it combines this

chilli's trademark heat with the flavour of red pepper and red onion. The searing heat blends perfectly with red pepper, red onion and balsamic vinegar to impart its distinctive Caribbean flavour. For those who like something hot this is a real treat!

These innovative products will be available at the launch week-end on Sunday 1st December, so come along between 10am-4pm and meet the producers and enjoy a taster. After then we will be the first retail shop that these will be available from, but if you are too far away to purchase them we can arrange to despatch to you on our mail order service. Maybe a perfect Christmas present!

WE DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS OUT!

Please check regularly for our latest offers on our new-look website:

www.buckinghamgardencentre.co.uk

and on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/BuckinghamNurseries



APPLE WEEKEND, BRIEF ROUNDUP

We certainly enjoyed your company at our Apple & Chilli Weekend with advice, entertainment, demonstrations being the order of the weekend. Our special thanks to all our guests – Jason Breed, John Edgeley, Chris Wright, Marcus Roberts, Members of the Tingewick & Water Stratford Horticultural Society, Lin and Phil Banks, Buckingham Bee Keepers, local



charities – Puzzle Centre, Chrissie’s Owls, RSPB, Hearing Dogs for The Deaf and companies – A Bit Chilli, Buckingham Beer, Wobbly Bottom Farm and The Concrete Cow Brewery who attended and helped make the event such fun. To see a round-up of photos taken over the weekend, follow this link www.buckinghamgardencentre.co.uk/eventsgallery.html



Back in February at our Potato Weekend event we launched a couple of challenges to individuals as well as schools to participate in - namely to grow the heaviest Marrow, the variety 'Green Striped' from seed generously supplied by Kings Seeds and the heaviest root of potatoes from a single tuber in a pot. The latter challenge was run with the Puzzle Centre, our chosen charity of 2013, aimed at raising funds by selling single tubers of 'Charlotte' potatoes. The weigh-in for both of these competitions concluded at our event and here is a roundup of the winners and runners-up, who received Garden Vouchers as prizes. Well done to them!



Pictured (l-r): Pupils from Winslow Church of England School - Jacob Harris, Alex Hems, Millie Frances and Elizabeth Fahy with their winning 8.55kg marrow.

Michelle, who attends Southfield School in Brackley with mum Rebecca Fisher, produced a couple of great marrows, the heaviest weighing in at a modest 7.25kg.

Luke Reid from Buckingham successfully grew 2.65kg of 'Charlotte' potatoes. He used an old recycling basket lined with a compost bag to produce a handsome crop.

David and Jill Prosser, keen organic gardeners from Mursley, produced a gigantic crop of 6.05kg 'Charlotte' potatoes in a large blue container containing their own compost mix. David tells us the potatoes were regularly fed with sheep manure throughout the growing season - well it certainly paid off!

NEW GARDENING PROGRAMME STARTS IN DECEMBER



A major new 10-part gardening series, *Great British Garden Revival*, will feature 14 of Britain's top television gardeners, writes Chris Day. The campaigning series looks set to re-invigorate the garden and inspire viewers to save the nation's garden heritage.

Britain's rich horticultural history is being lost as more and more front and back gardens are paved over – for development and for parking spaces – or often because

families don't have the time or inclination to manage these spaces. The trend for easy-to-maintain lawns, patios and paving has led to a decline in traditional gardens full of flowers, plants and trees to the extent that some of our most iconic flora and fauna have all but disappeared.

In *Great British Garden Revival*, 14 of Britain's top television gardeners – including Monty Don (pictured on previous page), Toby Buckland, Carol Klein, Joe Swift, Rachel de Thame, Chris Beardshaw, Alys Fowler and James Wong – have come together; determined to turn us into a green fingered nation once again. In each one hour episode, two presenters will focus on an endangered aspect of gardens about which they feel passionately and offer hands-on, practical advice to viewers on how they can restore and look after their gardens. The series will feature episodes on cottage gardens, orchards, cut flowers gardens, topiary, wildflowers, ponds and water features, shrubberies and kitchen gardens.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Advance notice: Our Spectacular Spud Weekend will be over Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th February 2014. There will be our usual mix of top fruit and vegetable experts, advice, information, launch of our schools competition and family entertainment as we kick-start the new Grow Your Own Season.

WEATHER MATTERS

It is always said that the English are always talking about the weather, and this is not surprising considering what has been thrown at us in recent years, especially the recent storm, writes Pauline Brown. If you remember last September, apart from a warm spell at the beginning was the coolest since 1993 with heavy rain causing floods in the third week. With this in mind perhaps we should think of some of the old sayings one used to hear so often such as:



- If salt is sticky and gains weight, it will rain before too late. Or
- When down the chimney falls the soot, mud will soon be under foot. Or
- A rainbow in the morning is the shepherd's warning. A rainbow at night is the shepherd's delight. Or even
- Red sky in the morning, shepherd's warning; red sky at night shepherd's delight.

RHS APPEAL TO GARDENERS FOR HELP

It is a phenomenon which perplexes even the country's finest gardening minds: why do some summer and spring bulbs sometimes flower before even the full onset of autumn, half a year before they are due to do so?

After being contacted by gardeners reporting this issue, the Royal Horticultural Society has decided to investigate and is appealing for information.

It is assembling a database of reports of what it describes as the "baffling" flowering of spring and summer bulbs, which were planted only around a month ago.

Guy Barter, the Society's chief horticultural adviser, said: "We do get reports from people who swear blind about bulbs that are flowering in the autumn. It is deeply baffling. We have no idea why."

Some reports can be easily discounted, because some flowers, such as Paperwhite Daffodils, for instance, as well as some Crocuses and Snowdrops, can flower in autumn.

But the flowering of others, such as 'regular' daffodils, have so far defied explanation.

Mr Barter added: "There is no mechanism that we can think of and it utterly perplexes us. We are always interested in non-Paperwhite Daffodils that can flower early. It is such a rare and unknown event. Anything that is not a Paperwhite, we gaze at in mystery."

He said there had also been recent reports to the Royal Horticultural Society advice service of some apple trees flowering this autumn – more than five months before they are due to blossom. But he said there was a clearer explanation for this apparently unseasonal occurrence.

"All plants are very delicately balanced systems," he added. "These trees have enjoyed such good conditions this year; they are flushed with surplus reserves. They are chancing their arm to see if they might bear fruit, but their chances are slim."

The season's other unusual trend has been less welcome sight for gardeners – a glut of lily beetles, which benefited from the favourable summer conditions, which helped a variety of insects.

"It has been a good year for pests in general," he said. "We normally see the worst of the lily beetles in spring but this year they have been active up until about now (mid-October)."

If you have a plant seemingly flowering out of season, email a picture to gardeningadvice@rhs.org.uk and do let us know too!

Also provide information about where it is planted, whether it is in the sun or shade, and your postcode, to allow the researchers to check local weather conditions.



Buckingham Nurseries & Garden Centre

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E-Mail: enquiries@hedging.co.uk, Web: www.buckinghamgardencentre.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/BuckinghamNurseries

Winter Opening Times: Mon-Sat: 8:30am-5.30pm, Sun: 10am-4pm.

Christmas and New Year Opening Times: 24th December 8:30am - 4pm; 25th & 26th December closed; 27th - 31st December 10am - 4pm; 1st January 2014 closed; 2nd January onwards normal winter hours resume.

rootgrow™

Mycorrhizal Fungi

PlantWorks Ltd has been growing UK origin mycorrhizal fungi in Kent for over ten years and has marketed it to the entire UK horticultural industry as **Rootgrow**. **Rootgrow** is regularly featured in the press and on television as one of the most important planting aids especially when planting hedging, trees, roses and bulbs.

Rootgrow was also the first and currently only planting product to receive the coveted Royal Horticultural Society license and endorsement.



PlantWorks over the years has developed the **Empathy** range of products that either contain mycorrhizal fungi or are designed to work in harmony with these fungi. The **Empathy** range is designed to take professional grade products and make them available to UK gardeners. Due to the high quality of the products and their sustainable nature they also have received the RHS license.

The **Empathy** products that contain **Rootgrow** are **Mini Meadow**, a wildflower seed mix containing a soil conditioner and mycorrhizal fungi. **Supreme Green**, a high quality lawn seed mixed with mycorrhizal fungi. **Bulb Starter** a product designed to increase establishment and rooting of bulbs. **After Plant** and **After Plant for Roses** a top dressing natural fertiliser designed to increase soil life and health. **PlantWorks** also offer a range of Seaweed foliar feeds that are tailored to some of the most important plant groups, All Purpose, Grow Your Own, Lawn Feed and one for Ericaceous plants. It has been shown that using a seaweed applied as a foliar feed actually speeds up colonisation of the mycorrhizal fungi in **Rootgrow**.

All **Rootgrow** products where possible are UK grown or sourced, made from sustainable resources and offer UK gardeners highly effective products that reduce our need to use artificial fertilisers and pesticides thus enabling us all to garden in a more natural manner that is better for the environment and health of our gardens and soils.

