



Lyndale Custom Compost - April 2023

Real Sunshine

After what has been the wettest spring/summer combination in recent memory, the industry is reeling as retailers rip up supply contracts and nurseries remain full to bursting as garden outlets remain bereft of the customary

Certainly, for the largest population clusters in the North Island, the reality has been dismal.

Who would want to get out in the garden when we have experienced nothing but wall-to-wall rain followed by more rain and cyclone-strength winds?

To put this in perspective, check out the rainfall summary below.

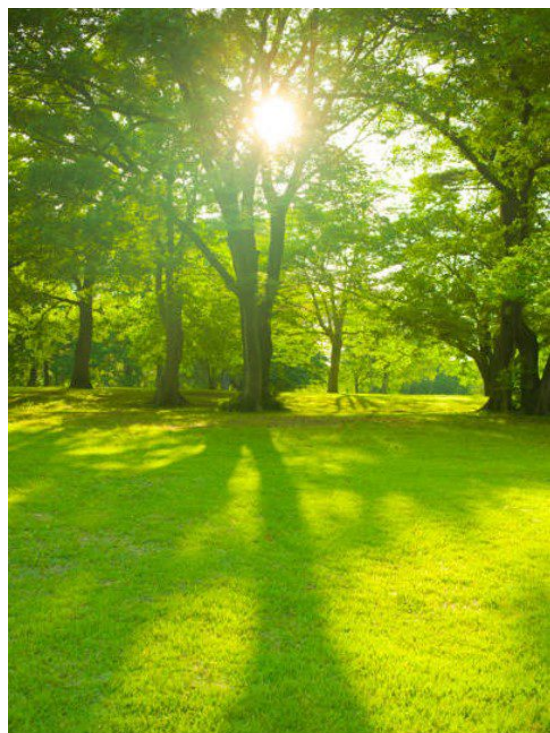


Record-breaking rainfall and all-time low sunshine hours made summer one of the wettest

Area	Month	Rainfall this month	Monthly Average
Whangarei	January	413mm	98mm
Auckland	January	387mm	71mm
Hamilton	January	231mm	78mm
Tauranga	January	380mm	67mm
Napier	January	265mm	62mm
Whangarei	February	572mm	88mm
Auckland	February	535mm	68mm
Hamilton	February	250mm	83mm
Tauranga	February	390mm	97mm
Napier	February	423mm	44mm

It has been well documented, the catastrophic outcome experienced in the Napier and Auckland regions, with infrastructure systems stretched beyond the 100-year flood design parameters.

So it is with much relief that we have been able to string a few weeks together in March featuring good Autumn sunshine and light southerly winds.



Real Sunshine
Beaming through

Custom Mix Response

The endless rain highlighted how difficult it is to make mixes with low enough water content such that they can pass through mechanized systems such as potting machines and transplanter.

Our suppliers in most cases cannot keep their stocks of composted bark, peat, and pumice covered, so supply to us often arrives saturated.

Apart from the additional cost of transport involved, we needed to dry the product out before we could contemplate trying to make mixes. All the custom mix team were well sick of tarpaulins needing to be pulled over bin loads of raw product.

Sprouting Covers

It was on the list of “must-do soon” things. Covering new bins with some of the brilliant covers imported by “Cow Power” thanks to Barry Hayes.

Covering our bins with hooped PVC covers gives us the required height needed to tip truckloads of product into it while giving good airflow and an “umbrella” to keep the worst of the rain out.

Peter has a few projects to finish off before he leaves us to move to Christchurch later this Autumn.

Ash Walker Assistant as Operations Manager is set to fill Peters large boots.



Uncovered material stockpiles means supply arrives saturated



Covering the new bins with brilliant covers imported by Co Power

Ladies First

Custom mix has been fortunate in having a great family of dedicated people who understand what makes plants grow.

There is a heap of horticultural experience shared amongst the team and we will be profiling that talent.

Over the next few editions of Custom Compost, we will be introducing the Custom Mix Team.

Ladies First, and we have some real Gems!

Crystal Sinclair is our first point of contact and office administrator. Crystal makes things happen and ensures orders go out on time and that all the ingredients we need are available before we need them.

Always friendly and cheerful Crystal keeps the team on target and focused.

Gem no2 is Sapphire Patten. A trained horticulturalist, Saph has worked in a range of nurseries including Lyndale Nurseries Auckland Ltd.



Crystal Sinclair
Office Administrator

Saph is a dynamo who demands perfection, exactly what is needed to ensure that potting mixes are made according to the recipe.

Sapphire is also a pretty useful operator of our loaders and can also be seen at the wheel of our small Mitsubishi delivery truck.

The end of the page is upon us. Let's hope that we get a dry balmy Autumn with gardening high on peoples agenda.



Sapphire Patten
Trained Horticulturalist
Machine Operator

Kind regards

The Custom Mix Team



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