



# JOIN US FOR OUR SPRING PREP WORKING BEE SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 10AM - 2PM

## WE ARE GETTING READY FOR SPRING

Join us for a day of preparation for spring. The group dedicated to the Kaiapoi Food Forest will be onsite to plant new trees, do pruning and, ready the flower beds and get the Food Forest spruced up for our Birthday Celebrations in September.

Learn from our experts, understand why the design of the food forest works well and join us for a day of nature appreciation.

Lock it in. Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. 10am - 2pm

## PLANT

- Fruit trees & berries
- Cover crops

## PRUNE

- Stone fruit trees (apricots, plums, peaches)
- Apple & pear trees
- Berry canes
- Grapevines

## PREP

- Mulch garden beds
- Compost check
- Tool sharpening
- Plan spring layout

CHECK OUT OUR TIPS FOR LATE WINTER/EARLY SPRING BELOW

# PLANT

## FRUIT TREES & BERRIES

- August is an ideal time to plant deciduous fruit trees (like apples, pears, plums, peaches, and apricots) before spring growth kicks in.
- Choose a sunny, sheltered spot with good drainage. Think about spacing for future canopy size and airflow between trees.
- Pop in currants (black, red, white), gooseberries, raspberries (bare-root canes), and blueberries. Blueberries need acidic soil — consider planting in a separate bed or large pot with the right pH.

Tip: Mulch well after planting to suppress weeds and retain moisture, but keep mulch away from the trunk or crown to prevent rot.

## COVER CROPS

- Lupins or field peas – These nitrogen-fixing legumes enrich the soil naturally. Sow them now and cut down before flowering to avoid reseeding.
- Oats or rye – Great for breaking up compacted soil and providing bulk organic matter when dug in later. They also help suppress winter weeds.
- Mustard – Fast-growing and great for breaking disease cycles (e.g. brassica clubroot). Cut down before flowering and compost or dig in.
- Phacelia – A good cold-tolerant option that also attracts beneficial insects once it flowers in spring — beautiful and functional!

Tip: Sow cover crops in areas you're not planting until spring. **Chop and drop or dig them in 2–4 weeks before planting your spring crops to give them time to break down.**

# PRUNE

## YOUR LATE WINTER PRUNING GUIDE

- Stone fruit trees (apricots, plums, peaches) – Prune before bud burst to shape and remove diseased wood.
- Apple & pear trees – Prune to open the canopy, remove crossing branches, and stimulate new fruiting growth.
- Berry canes – Cut back summer-fruiting raspberries and trim gooseberries and currants.
- Grapevines – Finish winter pruning now, before sap starts rising in early spring.

# PREPARE

## COVER CROPS

- Mulch garden beds – Top up mulch around fruit trees and perennials to suppress weeds and insulate soil.
- Compost check – Turn compost piles and add carbon-rich material (like dry leaves) to balance winter's kitchen scraps.
- Tool sharpening – Clean, sharpen, and oil tools like secateurs, loppers, and spades for pruning and planting.
- Plan spring layout – Sketch out your spring planting plan and rotate crops to avoid pest and disease build-up.

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**@KAIAPOI FOOD FOREST - KAI IS IN OUR NAME**