

NOTICE BOARD



Gloves on!

As we get busy shovelling compost and filling pots for spring, a recent Health Ministry report comes as a timely reminder: Legionnaires' disease, a potentially fatal pneumonia-like illness, appears to be on the increase. The bacterium responsible is commonly (though not exclusively) found in soil, potting mix and compost, but the disease can be avoided if gardeners take a few simple precautions:

- Wear gloves.
- Wash your hands after gardening.
- Keep potting mix and compost moist.
- Take extra care not to inhale the dusty particles.

See your doctor if a flu like illness is worsening. Key signs are high fever, chill and breathlessness. For more information visit: www.gogardening.co.nz

WEEDBUSTERS

BEWARE THE TAIWAN CHERRY

Taiwan cherry (*Prunus campanulata*), also known as Formosan cherry, has been widely planted as an ornamental and as food for nectar-feeding birds, such as tui. Unfortunately, birds have also been the cause of its spread from gardens into natural areas, as they eat the berries and drop the seeds wherever they go!

Taiwan cherry is a small deciduous tree with a short trunk and branches forming a 'chalice' shape. Its crowning glory is the covering of magenta bell-shaped flowers, which hang in clusters from July to September. These

are followed by glossy scarlet cherries which are eaten by birds that then disperse the seeds far and wide. The resulting seedlings grow rapidly and form dense, long-lived stands that crowd out other species.

Other naturalized ornamental cherries include: Japanese hill cherry (*P. serrulata*), cherry laurel (*P. laurocerasus*), Portugal laurel (*P. lusitanica*) and sweet cherry (*P. avium*). Only Taiwan cherry has the bell-shaped flowers on a chalice shaped tree.

Although Taiwan cherry is an attractive specimen, it and



other weedy flowering cherries are becoming more trouble than they are worth! Check out www.weedbusters.org.nz for control methods and enquire at your local garden centre to find out which ornamental cherries won't jump the garden fence and cause a nuisance of themselves!

Spring Garden Tours 2011

OCTOBER

9 Port Chalmers Presbyterian Parish West Harbour Garden Trail. Ph 03 471 0690

16 Kimbolton Garden Ramble Ph 06 323 3318

28-6 Nov Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival www.taranakigardens.com

28-6 Nov Powerco Taranaki Garden Spectacular www.gardenfestnz.co.nz

NOVEMBER

3-6 Hunter's Garden Marlborough www.gardenmarlborough.com

11-13 Rotorua Festival of Gardens. www.rotorua Gardens.org.nz

12-13 Mangawhai Garden Ramble Ph 09 431 4333

12-13 Waiheke Garden Safari, Waiheke Island www.jassydeantrust.co.nz

13 The Great Greenhithe Garden Tour, Auckland www.greenhithegardentour.org

20 11th Biennial Ohoka School Garden Tour & Festival Ph 03 327 0450

26 Great Barrier Island Garden Tour www.thebarrier.co.nz/gardentour

26 Kereru 'Music in the Garden' Walk, Hawke's Bay Ph 06 876 9557

Congratulations to Michael Scott, winner of the HortFert Young Achiever Award, 2011. Aged only 22, Michael is Nursery Manager for Scott Base Nurseries, Whenuapai. Michael wins a trip to Melbourne, taking in the 2012 Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, courtesy of HortFert Plus and goes on to represent NGIA in the Young Horticulturist of the Year in November with the chance to win a first prize valued at over \$13,000.

Other finalists in the HortFert Young Achiever Award 2011 were Daniel Chong of Lyndale Nurseries, Auckland, and Salena Goodfellow of Waimea Nurseries, Nelson. Daniel and Salena each won a \$500 approved standard training course of their choice with NZ Horticulture ITO.



Naturally Native's

SPRING FLOWERS

Celebrate Spring
with these
native flowering shrubs



Clianthus 'Kaka King'

Sophora 'Dragon's Gold'



At your local garden centre