



# GROWING GREAT GARDENS

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## Living Earth products used with outstanding results

Renowned Waikanae gardener Keith Wood has converted an unproductive section of ground into a beautiful garden using Living Earth products.

Mr Wood said he bought his home just on three years ago and purchased the adjacent section to create a garden.

"The ground was heavy clay, very stony and prone to flooding. Rather than try to eliminate the poor soil I decided to build up over the top."

He initially attempted to cover the area with compost but after finding it unsatisfactory he had it tested and, based on the results, had it all stripped away.

Then it was back to the drawing board, this time with Living Earth products and the results have been outstanding. A superb green lawn has resulted from laying a base of three inches of lawn sand topped with Living Earth lawn mix.

"The lawn has very good drainage and responds well to an application of fertiliser," Mr Wood said.

The garden beds with their massed plantings surrounding the manicured lawns are raised by six inches with Living Earth Garden Mix. A profusion of polyanthus have benefited from a heavy ap-



Keith Wood in his garden – well grounded with Living Earth.

plication of blood and bone and they will be replaced with geraniums in summer. Pruned now, but in readiness to provide a backdrop for the annuals, is a bed of hydrangeas.

Mr Wood is also well known for growing tuberous begonias and he says he finds the Living Earth potting mix an excellent starter. He is also using Living Earth mixes to establish a fernery and for his many pots and planters.

Formerly a pharmacist by profession, Mr Wood takes a scientific approach to gardening.

"I'm a great believer in getting

soil tests done from time to time, particularly for the pH value – the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. Living Earth mixes are pretty much neutral so I add the appropriate fertiliser for the plants.

He has been very impressed with the Living Earth company's standard of service. "When I had a query about the garden, they came and took samples and had them tested. That's more than any other outfit would do."

The tranquil garden owes its beauty to much careful tending and, as all gardeners know, so much of the answer lies in the soil.

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