

What can more can I say but congratulations on reaching 40 years. You bring back many fabulous memories for me as I have been buying your seeds since 1980.

I was always what I call a nutty gardener. Nothing better than my hands in soil and enjoying watching my seeds grow. I have had home gardens in NZ, UK, Australia and New Guinea. When my new seed catalogue arrives, I always give away the previous catalogue to someone who I hope will take up growing your seeds. Especially herbs and lately your micro seeds. Something I have shared for years with other growers.

During the early 80s I gave many workshops on no dig gardening, making compost and growing herbs. I always recommended to my audience to grow fresh herbs not shop bought dried ones, as dried herbs in those days had a short shelf life. Modern methods have now provided a better quality product. But fresh is always better.

In the early 80's I, along with our South Otago Herb society (the oldest Herb society in NZ) and all other herb societies in NZ, were asked to form what is now the NZ Herb Federation. Carmel Hare, Gillian Painter and Gill Poulson were at the helm of the Federation and we have them to thank for the Herb growth in NZ. Until then many NZers had no idea about using herbs. I do remember on one trip to Auckland all members visited the shop on Great North Road. I was the Federation's 3rd president. I also organized trips around NZ for the American Herb Society members who were billeted by our members. Kings Seeds were promoted by our Federations and still are.

I have memories of one conference when the Federation was asked if we would sort for sale a shipment of dried Mint for an importing company. To our horror three quarters of it was camel dung!!! I often provide information for "Get Growing" the online newsletter for The NZ Gardener and I was asked about 2 years ago to provide information on Summer and Winter Savory as no-one seemed aware what a great herb that is for mixing with your cooked beans.

Kings Seeds can be proud that their seeds bought to New Zealand gardeners one of the best selection of herbs in NZ and the knowledge to encourage them to grow them.

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