



# News

May 2022



The next meeting of the Doncaster Garden Club will be held

At the RSL Hall Cnr Leed Street and Doncaster Road

On the 11th May at 8 pm

The **Speaker** for the meeting will be Helen Lovel from Neutrog

## Pests in the Garden

### Committee Members 2022

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Hello Gardeners All,

It has been satisfying for Avril and myself to arrange a number of discounts from firms of our various speakers. Apart from Seeds of Plenty (Order Code: DGC seeds, on the order at checkout), the others are for Club orders. They have a huge list of heritage vegetables, herbs and flowers

I would encourage you all to ask your gardening friends and family to join the Club to share in these benefits and the future ones we are planning.

Bunnings donated 10 \$10 Gift Cards in February and another 2 \$50 Gift Cards after 5 of us volunteered at their Family Fun Day in April. It has been worthwhile having a relationship with them through Courtney.

Now is the time to renovate gardens with fertility and microbes for the spring planting - healthy soil produces nutritious food. It can be beneficial for the soil to sit fallow but I always choose to feed it and grow winter/spring crops. My summer garden was chewed by almost invisible caterpillars, aphids, thrip and blighted by powdery mildew, downy mildew, black spot etc. Somehow I had an excellent crop of cucumber, and a late crop of green beans plus the leafy greens and an early tomato crop. The Ladybirds abounded feasting on other pests. Seedlings ruined by pest or disease is not as painful financially when one has grown them oneself. The sweet potato are still to be dug. The pumpkins are colouring well but more hot days would have helped there. The capsicum failed and the 2 plantings of lettuce went to seed rapidly. The successes outweighed the failures. I have shared armfuls of silver beet and sweet potato leaf with friends.

### DGC Life members

**Gerda van der Piet**

**Doug Brewer**

**Ken Beer**

**Toni Myers and Joan Driver**

All correspondence should be forwarded to: **Avril Clark** 62 Pine Hill Drive Doncaster East 3109

All those who put their hands up at the AGM, or anyone else, are Invited to lunch at Pauline's to discuss our preparation for this major fundraising event.



Please ring Pauline on 0409 063 060 to say whether Friday 13th May or Saturday 14th suits you.

### Order now for Biochar and MycoGold

Pauline is ready to put in a Club order for Biochar (20litre bag \$25, discounted \$5) and MycoGold (200gm \$18.60, discounted over \$11) If you were not at the April Meeting and wish to buy, please ring her promptly.

## SEEDS of PLENTY

Trevor Barrow the Chairman of Charman has offered us a discount for a Club order of his Bio Char. We can do this annually or twice yearly if there is the demand

This needs soaking in weed tea or compost tea or diluted GoGo Juice to inoculate/activate it with microbiota. Nutrients do not wash out but are taken by the plants or lawn as needed. Use at 2L per square metre.

The prices are for delivery to my place: (Pauline Webb)

**Keith Edwards** recommended the MycoGold brand of 4 beneficial fungi. Diggers sell 50gm for \$20. Tim Lester who makes it sells 200gm for \$30 or 1kg for \$92.25. As this is expensive I propose people give their expression of interest then, I will arrange delivery on a different month to the biochar for those who wish to budget for both.

At this stage Tim Lester has not set a discount rate but shipping will only be \$10 for the lot.

Also **Keith** recommends **CLYDE COMPOST** The Club is able to purchase this with a 10% discount It will be delivered (in bulk) to Pauline's house If you are interested in purchasing some you will need to:

1. Give Pauline your details – name, phone no
2. How many 25 litre bags you would like
3. You will have to bag your own when it arrives at Pauline's (bring your own bags)

### Pre Order Fruit Trees. Delivery June Meeting

Trees for sale include: almonds, apples, apricots, avocados, bananas, berries, cherries, citrus, figs, grapes, guavas, hazelnuts, kiwifruit, loquats, macadamias, mulberries, nectarines, olives, peaches, pears, persimmons, plums and quinces.

The new season Citrus have arrived and bare root stone fruit trees arrive on 10th June. Pete has a range of potted trees - a year older so will fruit sooner. Order either sort.

All trees are being sold at last year's prices. Much better than a price rise and discount.

Members without an email address, please ring Pauline re prices of what interests you.

### CLUB DINEOUT

**When:** Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

**Where:** Doncaster Hotel, cnr Victoria St and Doncaster Rd

**Time:** 6pm

**RSVP by 22<sup>nd</sup> June** to Anita Luzzo 9842 7786

### Garden Clubs of Australia

As our Club is now affiliated with the GCA all our members can enter their 2 exciting Annual Photographic Competitions.

#### The Annual Photographic Competition

Digital images or hard copy prints can be submitted of photos you have taken anywhere in the world, with no time limit on when the photos were taken. There are 5 categories for images and the **total prize value is \$2,250** spread over 30 awards.

#### The Annual GCA "Beautiful Gardens of Australia" Calendar Competition

Only digital images can be submitted, and they must be scenes taken within Australia.

Bartel Calendars provide **\$1,300 in total for the 13 main page images** used.

There is no payment to photographers for images used as small "fillers", but the photographers have the satisfaction of their name, and State, being printed on the photo.

**THERE IS NO ENTRY FEE FOR EITHER OF THESE COMPETITIONS.**

I will bring printed copies of the entry forms and conditions of entry to each monthly meeting for those interested in entering.

Paul LUCAS

## What went on at the May meeting

Those at the meeting heard two speakers, First Nigel Philpot spoke of his involvement in the Doncaster Hill community garden and the schools programs which include Wilderness Walks and working with Youth Mental Health. How fresh produce went to the Doncare Community Pantry. And the improvements that have occurred at the garden, the use of metal wicker beds that have taken the place of the original apple boxes.

Then Felicity Gordon spoke on the ways to prevent Fruit Fly The use of nets, the removal of old fruit on the ground, and the making or buying fruit fly traps She advised that Bulleen Arts and Garden was a good place to buy the fly proof netting.

Both speakers were thanked by President Pauline and each given large bottles of Olive Oil as a thankyou

The winner of the monthly prize was Heather Smith who won the Aggregate for potted plants with her huge cerise pink zygocactus. Congratulations heather.



### **Dwarf Fruit Trees in tub or in Ground**

There are many ways to have Dwarf Fruit Trees suitable for turning your small back-yard into a thriving orchard.

To grow dwarf trees successfully in containers all you need to do is supply a rich potting mix and re-pot regularly. Feed the trees every 6 months with a slow release fertiliser, provide plenty of sunlight, and keep the tree moist. The secret with keeping trees healthy and productive in containers is to re-pot and prune (roots and tops) at least every two years.



**Vegetables to grow in May** Cabbage, Asian Greens like mizuna, tatsoi, pac choi, lettuce, spinach, carrots, celery, cauliflower, spring onions, leek, onions, turnips and swedes peas of all varieties and broad beans.

**Herbs** Parsley and perennial herbs can be planted like rosemary, oregano, and thyme

**Flowers:** Cornflower, calendula, pansies, viola, nasturtiums, yarrow, daisies, camomile and marigolds.

**Green manures:** If your soil has been a little over worked, rest it with some "Green Manure" crops whose express purpose is to be turned into the soil come spring. At this time of year try broad beans, lupins, vetch, field pea, oats, and wheat.



### **End of Year Function 14th December**

For those not at the April meeting in the Hall, we took a vote on what people wanted for their end of year get together. We chose between a) a social function only with food all evening, b) a small entertainment in the RSL Hall with supper or c) a bigger function at the Council Hall. You voted overwhelmingly for the smaller entertainment and supper at this Hall. Our lovely Esther (Committee member) does traditional Malaysian dance with ukulele support and has offered to give us this for the occasion. What a privilege for us.

No woman has ever shot her husband while he's doing the dishes

### **Ham ,cheese, pineapple sandwich**

2 slices of sandwich bread

2 slices Swiss cheese

2 ounces thinly sliced ham

2 thin rounds pineapple

3 fresh basil leaves

1 tablespoon butter

**Step 1** Layer 1 slice sandwich bread with 1 slice Swiss cheese, ham, pineapple, fresh basil, and another slice of cheese; top with bread.

**Step 2** In a skillet over medium-low, melt butter. Add sandwich. Cover; cook until golden, 2 to 3 minutes.





## Growing Peas (Sustainable Gardening Australia)

### Position, Position, Position!

Full sun, in frost-free conditions. Most peas are climbers so they need support as they can get up to about 2m high. However you can limit their height by nipping out the growing tip when they are as tall as your structure allows. A wire trellis, "tee pee" or similar can be used to prop them up. Plant no closer than 15cm to prevent young peas being over crowded and "fighting" each other.

### Talking Dirty

Peas will thank you if you prepare their bed about five weeks before planting. Do this by adding loads of well-rotted chook poo and compost, and maintaining a pH of 6.5 – 7.5. A touch of dolomite lime in the patch at planting time is a good idea, one small handful around the area to be planted.

### Feed Me!

A sprinkling of blood and bone a couple of times throughout the growing season, in addition to a drink of seaweed based fertiliser every three weeks is more than sufficient, especially if there is a pile of chook poo in the soil.

### What about the Water?

Overwatering, especially when peas are young, can lead to all manner of issues. Peas should be watered first thing in the morning, only when soil feels dry, avoiding water on the foliage.

### Pests and the Rest

Overwatering, mildews, cold sensitivity and bird attack.

### Are We There Yet?

Most peas, including dwarf varieties, are ready to harvest between 11 – 14 weeks. Harvest frequently and continuously for a prolonged crop... the more you pick the more they fruit! Expect 6 weeks harvest from snow peas, and 3 weeks from garden peas

Fred must have the most economical car. Yesterday. He told me he picked up this blonde at a Bar and offered her a ride home. They drove for hours and hours. He said he did it all for nothing.

Feeling guilty after running over what looked like a prize rooster, the travelling salesman knocked on the door and told the farmers wife he would like to replace it "Please yourself, luv" she said "The chooks are round the back"

## Land cress

### **Barbarea verna**

land cress (also known as upland cress and winter cress) produces peppery leaves for salad mixes, self-seeds easily so usually doesn't require replanting, and has excellent pest controlling properties for brassicas. Sow seeds 5mm deep direct or in punnets, remove flowering stems when they appear. Land cress also can be used as a 'dead end trap crop' for large cabbage moths. The moths are attracted to the plants and lay eggs on the leaves. Little do they know, though, that the leaves contain natural substances called saponins which are toxic to the baby caterpillars once they hatch and start munching.



Height: 50 cm

Width: 40 cm

Sun/Shade: Full sun or part shade

Cultivation Details: Plant seeds in autumn or spring,

### What to do about Powdery Mildew?

Milk spray or baking soda solution work well and can be sprayed on affected plants.

### What to do about Spider Mites?

Spray with soap spray weekly until the problem is under control. It may be necessary to reapply more often if it's a particularly rainy winter.

### What to do about Aphids?

Spray with soap spray weekly until the problem is under control. It may be necessary to reapply more often if it's a particularly rainy winter.

Worm Juice, also known as 'liquid gold', is a magical elixir that provides billions of good microbes such as fungi, and helpful, nitrogen-fixing bacteria to your plants and veggies. You don't see these good microbes in synthetic liquid fertilisers, so nothing beats this recipe from mother nature. If you use your kitchen scraps to feed your worms you are returning all those extra nutrients into your soil in exactly the right balance as you are harvesting. Win, win, win!

Don't forget Stella Yee, Editor, has requested a photo of something special. It can be a plant or tree from out and about or from your own patch. She is needing them now as she is already thinking of the next issue which each edition has a garden page, which will mention DGC

Her email address is: [editor@manninghamlife.com.au](mailto:editor@manninghamlife.com.au)

There is also a photo competition with a \$50 voucher from a fresh food place as the prize!

Manningham Life magazine comes out 6 bi-monthly a year, Send your entries in no later than the second week of the month. In return, Stella encourages us to tell family members of the \$200 fee for advertising their Businesses & products. The magazine goes to well over 40,000 addresses.



If members have a topic to assist in their gardening skills which they might like to hear of from a monthly Guest Speaker, please email Pauline at [pauline.pw25@gmail.com](mailto:pauline.pw25@gmail.com) or on mob 0409063060 or phone 9855 8440.