



June 2023
47 years of growth
1976-2023



The Doncaster Garden Club Committee meeting will be held on
Wednesday 7th June 2023

8:00 pm at 11 Inglewood Close, Doncaster East.

The June meeting of the Doncaster Garden Club will be held on
Wednesday 14th June 2023

At 8pm at the RSL Hall, corner Doncaster Road and Leeds Street, Doncaster East.

The speaker for June is James Wall... "Life and Times as a Nursery Man"

July Meeting - Subject: 'Vertical Gardening' - Speaker: John Hassal

Committee Members 2023

President:

Pauline Webb

Secretary:

Avril Clark

Past President:

Doug Brewer

Treasurer:

Toni Myers

Fund Raising Co-ordinator

Anita Luzzi

Newsletter:

Linda Speirs

Esther Sim

Ray Brett

Gladys Lim

Margaret Salter

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Gardeners,

It is another damp month! I have measured 72.8mm in 23 days. It is damp underfoot, mostly sunless, and icy cold as you are all experiencing - not gardening weather. Today was breezy, warmer and much was done: red onion seedlings in and broccolini seedlings in. Yesterday we built a compost pile.

So, if you are feeling the budget pinch, it is time for you to make some **COMPOST** for the summer garden: rake and bag the autumn leaves whether or not they are off your trees, from your neighbour who puts them in the green bin or from the street trees as they will compost nicely left in a sunny spot (if you have one). The worms will eventually arrive and, hey presto, there is compost for your potting mix or garden! The leaves could also be stored in a large box with a lid - pack them in tightly.

Weeds: save money! Pull WEEDS while small and they come out completely. Weeds use the costly nutrients you put on your precious plants. 10-20 minutes in the sunshine on many days can make a big difference and break the back of what could be a major task.

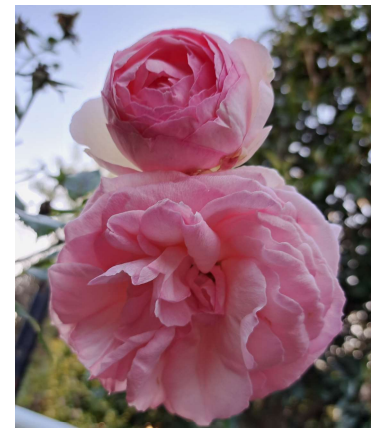
Make a bucket of **weed tea fertiliser**:
1/2 bucket weeds well pressed down plus 1/2 bucket of water. Cover with a lid as it becomes quite stinky. Stir daily for 10-20 days. It will need to

Change colour and smell objectionable! Fish out the weeds or strain the liquid off into smaller sealed bottles (empty juice bottles work well), Label clearly. When using on plants or potting mix, dilute 1 part to 10 parts. (1:10). It can be used at full strength according to the Old Farmer's Almanac website.

Continued page 3.

In my garden

Bourbon Rose



May Guest Speaker:

Seila Hierk

Subject:

Growing Winter Asian Vegetables

Autumn and Winter Asian vegetables

Most Asian vegetables are grown over the late spring to summer periods. There are a range of Asian Brassica that can be grown during the cooler periods. These are usually used in stir fries and some for soups. Cabbage moth can be problem during the summer periods, it is best to make a frame and net the vegetables. The other main problem during hot weather is bolting. The temperature spike causes stress on the vegetables, and they form flowers early. Bolting describes the stems elongating and forming flowers. Harvest when they start to show flowering stems and refrigerate. Leafy vegetables will require the use of nitrogen-based fertilisers, the easiest form is cow or sheep manure. Brassica seeds germinate very quickly, up to 3 days. They are small and the potting mix or soil needs to be kept moist. Most brassica seeds look very much alike, so it is important to label them.

Make sure to renovate the garden beds with compost and cow manure, a few handfuls of lime will help to add calcium and neutralise the pH of the soil. Root vegetables do not need any manure or compost, particularly for daikon (also carrots and parsnip).

It is important to rotate the crops, do not plant the same vegetable in the same garden bed every year. This prevents depleting the soil of the same minerals and helps to break the disease cycle. Clubroot forms nodules or swollen balls on the roots of Brassica. Garden beds must be quarantine with no Brassica planted for up to 2 years, and lime added to raise the pH to 7.

There are perennial vegetables that grow over many years. These are highly productive and can be left alone in a corner. Most need to be harvested during the autumn periods. Taro needs 2 years to produce large enough corms because of the temperate climate. Yacon must be harvested every autumn as the roots will rot and eaten by insects. Lemon grass will shrink during the cooler months and grow back as the temperature increases. Turmeric must be harvested when the leaves die down, otherwise they will rot. Place them in fresh potting mix with some poultry pellet fertiliser.

Seed source

I have used two main seed suppliers. These are Eden seeds and 4season seeds. I have tried to use non-hybrid and will grow true to type each time. Hybrids are a cross between two parent lines, the first generation are vigorous and very productive, and the second generation is mixed. You can propagate roots and herbs from the Asian grocers.

Eden Seeds

<http://www.edenseeds.com.au/>

4season Seeds

<http://www.4seasonsseeds.com.au/>

Reference books

Asian Herbs and Vegetables (How to identify, grow and use them in Australia) Penny Woodward

Perennial Vegetables, Eric Toensmeier.

The seed savers handbook, Michael and Jude Fanton

The Permaculture Home Garden, Linda Wo



NEWS FLASH

James Wall is bringing 30 buckets of Munash Rockdust at 25% discount ie \$30, to sell. For those for haven't tried rockdust in their veggie garden, do reconsider.

Planting guide for June

Cool Zone

(Which includes Melbourne)

FRUIT & VEGETABLES

Asparagus
Cabbage
Carrot
Cauliflower
Celery
Chinese Cabbage
Endive
Leek
Lettuce
Onion
Peas

HERBS

Chives
Garlic
Mint
Parsley
Shallots
Thyme

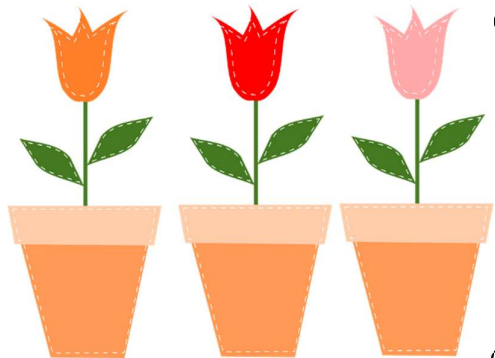
FLOWERS

Cineraria
Delphinium
English daisy
Foxglove
Hollyhock
Larkspur
Lobelia
Nemesia
Pansy
Polyanthus
Poppy



Container Gardening

Edible Gardening in containers requires a little more attention than gardens planted directly in the ground. Here at [Leaf, Root & Fruit](#) we have enough experience to see that no two edible gardens are ever the same. Variations in location, soil type, rainfall, light availability, micro-climate, and space mean that each garden has certain limitations. Edible gardens in containers and planter boxes are subject to all these variations. Factor in a small, finite space as another variable and the micro-climate you create needs extra attention. Whilst container-based edible gardens have the benefits of being able to be easily moved, and easily tended, it can also be difficult to maintain a steady supply of water and nutrients. When it comes to



container gardening, some plants do better than others. Understanding the balance required to maximize your production from these micro-environments helps, even with very little knowledge of edible gardening, you can easily get started on growing your own food. So, to make the most out of container and planter growing spaces, we recommend you devote much of it to cultivating leaves and herbs. You'll enjoy them meal after meal in the quickest time frame and for very little effort. If you've got space left after planting your greens, then consider going for root crops like potatoes, carrots, and beetroot. Have you still got space to spare? Then start planting fruits like tomatoes and capsicums.

Presidents Message (cont. from page 1)

Rock dust: bring your \$30 for your 8kg. When James Wall delivers them, I will put them in a safe place so I can collect your money when I hand them out at the end of the evening. Those who wrote their names down please bring correct money.

Garden Club Dinner: This is now planned for Wednesday 28th June at 6:30pm due logistical factors for the Committee members. At the June meeting, put your name on the clipboard to attend at the Doncaster Hotel, corner of Doncaster Rd and Victoria St for 6pm.

I am picking perpetual spinach, red Russian kale, baby silver beet and radish leaves. The carrots are nearly ready to thin, and the cos lettuce need transplanting. The snow peas are climbing well, and a last row of peas was planted a couple of days ago. Some potato plants which I put in far too late are shooting. I have a plastic tent over them to prevent frostbite but as a warmish winter is predicted I'm hoping on reduced frosts to last year's dozen or more. We picked 34 Fuyu Persimmons for our 1st crop off a dwarf tree and the navel oranges are colouring already.

Do you like walking? Need something to motivate you to walk? Stella from Manningham Life Magazine advertises us free in each of the 5 issues annually. She is short of volunteers to deliver about 200 copies in their own area across 7-10 days. If you would like to help her, her phone is: Stella Yee 0404 169 839.

Happy Gardening,

Pauline.

"Fungi in our mulch"



Potting mix Workshop



A small group of us gathered at Pauline's to learn the art of making our own Potting mix. The rain held off and we successfully mixed up a great batch.

D G C Life Members

Gerda van der Peet
Ted Page
Doug Brewer
Joanne Driver
Ken Beer
Elsie Carter
Toni Myers
Bev Turner
Gayle McCann



COMEDY CORNER

Q: What happens when winter arrives?
A: Autumn leaves ...



Supper Roster

The supper roster has been misplaced. We will send around another clipboard and ask you to volunteer again. **THANK YOU!!** Committee members will provide for the June meeting.



Supporters and Sponsors



SEEDS of PLENTY

15% discount when you key the Discount Code DGC seeds

The discount will be applied to the invoice at the end.

Butcher

Brendan's Butcher
Jackson Court
(Next to fruit shop)

Ryset

The Committee each have a Ryset catalogue and an online pricelist to share with members. (Thousands of products) The Club receives wholesale prices which are usually the retail price discounted by 60-70%. Do ask to borrow the catalogue. Everyone can go to Ryset for their own order 30 Kolora Rd Heidelberg West 3081. Enquiries: info@ryset.com Ph: 9457 1291

Mensland

- 39 The Mall,
Heidelberg West





Year round fertilising for year round health

Like humans and animals, plants require regular feeding throughout the year – at least once in each season.

Happy, healthy, well nourished plants are more resistant to pests, diseases, heat stress and frost.

Vegetables & Herbs: Give all your edibles a monthly dose of GOGO Juice to help them through any remaining summer heat waves – this will also encourage tasty new growth! Start preparing your garden beds for autumn & winter vegetables by reconditioning the soil with a generous 1-2 handfuls of Rocket Fuel per sq metre. It is also an idea to check your soil pH at this preparation stage and add lime to neutralise the pH if needed.

Flowering Plants: Extend the flowering season of summer annuals with an application of Sudden Impact for Roses, 100g per sq metre spread over the area and watered in well (with GOGO Juice) will give them strength for a final summer flush of flowers.

Keep an eye on your orchids during the warmer months (you may need to water 2-3 times a week in extreme heat) but remember to reduce watering once the autumn rains arrive. Feed in autumn with Strike Back for Orchids to promote flowering spikes.

Fruit Trees: Citrus trees will benefit from a good application of Rooster Booster or Bounce Back now – spread 1-2kg per tree, making sure you spread it right out to the edge of the dripline.

Stonefruit trees need a 1-2kg application of Seamungus or Rapid Raiser after you've finished harvesting.

Natives: As the autumn rains arrive, give all natives 100g of Seamungus to help promote healthy, new autumn growth.

Lawns: If your lawn is looking a bit stressed after the summer heat, rejuvenate it with one of our seaweed rich products; either a top dress of Seamungus crumble or a fortnightly watering of GOGO Juice. HINT – clip the GOGO Juice 2ltr spray pack onto your hose for lawn application... so easy and quick!

As autumn rains arrive, now is a good time to lay turf. Prepare the soil beforehand with Seamungus Crumble – It will give the new roots of your turf the TLC they need to become established. Water new turf monthly with GOGO Juice to improve new root growth.

"Garden Groundwork" Originally Printed By Neutrog



Competition Table

May competition winner for

"cut flowers"

was Elsie Carter with her very pretty 'Nerine'.

Be sure to bring your
"Potted Plants"
for our June competition

Friends of Burnley

Invite you to a

Winter Propagation Workshop

with

Sascha Andrusiak

Saturday 1 July 2023

Sascha is a Burnley Girl from way back! She completed her graduate and post graduate studies in Horticulture and Climate change at the Burnley Campus and has subsequently held many roles on Campus over the last 22 years. Propagation is a big passion for Sascha, and she loves to share her skills in this area.

The workshop will commence with a discussion, followed by morning tea, then a walk around the gardens to collect cuttings to use for propagation back at the nursery.

Participants will be guided on the propagation of a range of plants including:

- Propagate hard wood cuttings such as Roses, fruit trees, *Forsythia*, *Philadelphus*, *Juniper*, *Viburnum*, *Lilac* and others.
- Learn various techniques to propagate indoor plants.

We will use the glasshouses at Burnley to produce the best outcomes for your plants, which you can pick up when they are ready!

When: Saturday 1st July 2023

Time: 10am-1pm (Morning tea provided!)

Cost: Members \$35. Non-members \$45.

Dress: Please wear closed shoes (health and safety requirement).

Venue: Burnley Nursery, Burnley Campus, 500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond

Parking: Yarra Boulevard

Bookings essential: workshop limited to 20 participants

Bookings essential:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CIJRB>

