



Newsletter

October 2022



The Doncaster Garden Club meets on the **Second Wednesday** of each month

Venue: the **RSL Hall** corner of Doncaster Road and Leeds Street, Doncaster

Next meeting: 12th October at 8 p.m..

The Speaker for October is **Seila Hierk of Childplay Permaculture** who will talk on Asian Summer Vegetables

**The competition for September is for
CUT FLOWERS**

Committee Members 2022

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DGC Life members

Gerda van der Peet Doug Brewer,

Ken Beer Toni Myers

Joanne Driver Gayle McCann

Elsie Carter and Bev Turner

Hello Gardeners All, For those who did not do a bbq with friends or family on this the official day of mourning for our late Queen, it was perfect weather to garden. Somehow I had hundreds of parsley and dozens of stinging nettles bouncing out of one bed. All self sown, unwanted and unexpected! However, the nettles have been harvested (2 huge buckets full) to be dipped in hot water to neutralise the stinging action then washed, patted dry deleafed and oven dried at 55 deg till crisp so I can crush then bottle them for use in soups, stews, etc (& nettles tea) as they hold all the minerals mined from the soil - a nutritious supplement cheaper and more effective than vitamin/mineral pills. This same bed had Munash rockdust, biochar loaded with worm wee and Mycogold mycorrhiza (fungi) put on in June along with a little sheep manure and gypsum. It is now so loose, friable and dark even the worms are bigger and more numerous and is very very fertile.

The strawberry bed needs compost, pine bark & needles added and old leaves pulled off but they are not waiting with most of them in flower already. Even the runners planted in pots to grow sufficiently, on the patio, actually have little strawberries already.

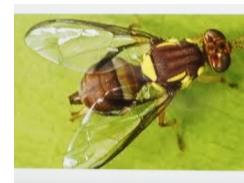
My snapdragons did not die off in autumn and have continued to grow and flower right through the cold and wet. They look delightful as does an azalea at the gate. The daffodils are finished.

It is now time for me to plant cucumber, pumpkin, zucchini, tromboncino and melon seeds in seed pots to grow for 4-6 weeks to transplant when soils are warmer (a head start on planting seeds direct into soil in 6 weeks).

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At the September meeting we were entertained by Felicity Gordon who spoke about the problems of Fruit Fly, Many of us were surprised to learn that even lemons could be infected. She explained the various ways that could combat Fruit Fly, showing examples of pheromone traps, nets and the use of liquids that attract and kill the insects.



Where once it was unheard of in southern states it's arrival is now another problem faced by vegetable growers who already have trouble with possums and rats.



Felicity was thanked by Pauline for an interesting and informative talk.



The September competition winner was Elsie Carter with a lovely potted Cyclamen. Congratulations Elsie.

The raffle as usual was a great success, two of the prizes each month have been donated by Brendan Watts of Jackson Crt a local butcher. In these days, with the cost of meat, these prizes are usually the first to go



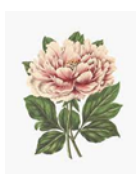
Vegetables to grow in October Artichoke, Asian Greens, Asparagus, Beans, Beetroot, Broccoli, Cabbage, Capsicum, Carrots, Celery, Chives, Coriander, Eggplant, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leek, Lettuce, Onion, Melon, Peas, Potato, Pumpkin, Radish, Silverbeet, Spring Onion, Squash, Tomato, Turnip.

Some Flowers for September: Sow Aster, Begonia, Bellis, Carnations, Daisies, Dahlias, Foxgloves, Helibores, Hyacinths, Lavender, Marigolds, Primula, Petunias, Pansies, Snapdragons, Salvia, Viola, Wallflower,

Tree Peony Propagation

From Royal Horticultural Society:

Layering is relatively straightforward if a flexible stem can be bent over. It usually takes two to three years before the stem will produce sufficient independent root system to be separated from the parent plant. (Pauline suggests wrapping a slit attached branch in glad wrap and potting mix)



Most tree peonies are commercially propagated by **grafting**, but this is not a technique commonly used by home gardeners as it takes quite a bit of practice to get good success rates.

Cuttings: They generally root poorly so are not a great option.

He: When ever I get mad at you, you never seem to get upset. How do you manage to control your temper

She: I just go and clean the toilet

He: How does that help?

She: I use your tooth brush



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My tomato seedlings are 6-10 inches high and ready for the garden - when the weeding is finished. If they come into flower before transplanting, it helps with early fruiting.

I have 3 capsicum plants which survived the winter in a frost free position in a garden against the house on the NE aspect. As it warms they will put on new growth and flowers faster than seedlings which need to grow 12-18 inches first.

I do become so excited with the possibilities and anticipation of the bounty to come when spring is here.

Happy Gardening everyone,
Pauline.

When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.

“The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us.”

The History of Broccoli

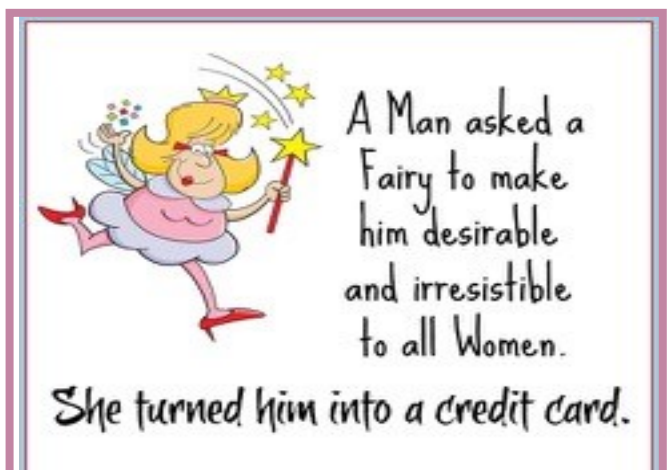
Broccoli, or *Brassica oleracea italica*, was domesticated from wild cabbage, likely by the Etruscans, an advanced civilization that was really into the afterlife, judging from how comprehensively they stocked their tombs. Luckily for us, they were also into this life, as evidenced by their horticultural genius, which inspired later civilizations to cultivate [other members of the brassica family](#), including cauliflower, cabbage, kale, kohlrabi, and [Brussels sprouts](#). (Fun fact: the word “horticulture” derives from the Etruscan goddess of gardening, [Horta](#).)

The Etruscans were also accomplished mariners, which is how broccoli [spread](#) from what is now Italy throughout the Mediterranean basin, reaching as far as Greece and Phoenicia (modern-day Lebanon). Broccoli was introduced to England in the mid-1700s with the name “[Italian asparagus](#),” presumably to provide a familiar point of reference for those unfamiliar with Roman cuisine. It wasn’t until immigrants from southern Italy brought broccoli to the United States in the 1920s that it became a popular food in the west.

Broccoli is essentially a large [edible flower](#). Its name comes from the Italian word *broccolo*, which means “the flowering crest of a cabbage,” as well as the Latin word *brachium*, which means branch, shoot, or arm.

Germination Temperatures for Vegetables			
Species	Minimum (°C)	Preferred (°C)	Days to Germinate
Bean	8-10	16-30	6-8
Beet	4	10-30	4-6
Cabbage	4	7-35	4-6
Carrot	4	7-30	6-8
Cauliflower	4	7-30	5-7
Celery	4	15-21	7-9
Corn	10	16-32	10 -12
Cucumber	16	16-35	3-6
Aubergine	16	24-32	6-8
Lettuce	2	4-27	3-5
Onion	2	10-35	6-8
Parsnip	2	10-21	14-17
Pea	4	4-24	6-8
Pepper	16	18-35	8-10
Pumpkin	16	21-32	4-6
Radish	4	7-32	4-6
Rutabaga	4	16-30	4-6
Spinach	2	7-24	5-7
Squash	16	21-35	4-6
Tomato	10	10-30	6-8
Swiss Chard	4	20-23	4-6
Turnip/Rutabaga	15	18-21	3-6

This Bee poster is from the Sustainable Macleod Facebook page



The suppers at the Garden Club committee meetings are always worth going to the meetings for when it should be the business. All at the last meeting agreed that the **Vanilla slices** provided by **Anita** were something exceptional. Jeff Kennett would have loved them. So here is the recipe.

	Ingredi-
ents. 2 sheets puff pastry thawed	300 ml
milk	600 ml
thickened cream.	2 pkts
Cotties instant Pudding vanilla flavoured.	1/4 cup
pure icing sugar.	

Companion planting

Most gardeners know that tomatoes and basil should be planted together, and that marigolds will also help tomatoes, capsicum and chill to be pest free, but why? It's called companion planting and it is one of the simplest, and oldest, methods of organic pest control for gardens of all sizes.

Companion planting is simply the practice of growing certain plants together, with the idea that they will assist each other in some way, to improve the overall health of your garden. Companion plants do this in several ways including deterring pests, improving growth, enhancing flavour, attracting beneficial insects, suppressing weeds, aiding soil organisms and fixing nitrogen.

(We thank the Diggers Club for the use of this article)

Bake pastry sheets at 210c for 12-15 minutes or until golden brown.

Remove from oven and press with a large tray to flatten. Allow to cool.

Combine milk and cream in a bowl, then add pudding mix.

Beat with an electric beater until thick and smooth.

Spread filling evenly over pastry sheet.

Press second pastry sheet on top.

Refrigerate for one hour.

Cut into slices and sprinkle with icing sugar.



Stinging nettles

Give your tomato plants a real sting using dried, powdered stinging nettle leaves. When placed at the bottom of the planting hole the dried material will increase biological activity within the soil and improve plant health and resistance to disease. The dried leaves can also be placed in a bucket, to which water is added to allow the mixture to ferment. The fermented water, which contains silicon, is sprayed onto the foliage of the tomato plants and is effective in deterring insect attacks, improving the health of the plant and increasing the ability of the plant to absorb sunlight. Stinging nettle preparations are readily available to home gardeners in Europe and Australian gardeners can prepare their own dried nettle leaves using stinging nettles from the garden.



SEEDS of PLENTY

15% off Code DGCseeds at Pay Basket

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, 5th October. Committee meeting at the home of Pauline Webb,
11 Inglewood Close East Doncaster

Wednesday, 12th October. General meeting

Wednesday 2nd November Committee meeting at the home of Pauline Webb.

Wednesday 9th November **AGM and Dan of Seeds of Plenty** talking on Tomatoes.

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 or on mob 0409063060 or phone 9855 8440.

If you have a special photo (plant, tree, etc) send it to Stella Yea, Editor@manninghamlife.com.au \$50.00 available as a prize

Manningham Life comes out four times a year. Send entries no later than the second week of the month

The Committee now 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. All orders must be given to a Committee member and the Club then sends in a Club order.