

# Vegetable Gardening Notes:

## Why grow vegies at home?

Home grown vegies are good for you, they are pure and full of vitality and goodness and are free from the chemical sprays and additives used by commercial growers.

## How much can you produce?

The skies the limit! It's amazing how much food you can produce off such a small area of land. It's estimated that three 10m long by 1m wide veggie plots can yield half a tonne of vegies a year!(Courtesy of Diggers Club) This is enough to supply a family of three for a year!

## Vegetable Growing Systems.

### 1) Traditional Soil Based System:

Prepare beds by cultivating to a depth of 25-30cm. Blend in organic materials such as compost, sheep and cow manure at a rate of about 50/50 to the existing soil.

Rake over and level off soil.

**Raised beds are always beneficial.**

### 2) "No Dig" or Straw Based Growing.

- 1) Build a box to contain the garden out of boards, sleepers or blocks.
- 2) Add a thin layer of wet, spiked newspaper.
- 3) Add a layer of pads of straw.
- 4) Sprinkle straw with a layer of sheep or cow manure.
- 5) Cover with pads of straw, until desired level is reached.
- 6) Sprinkle straw with a layer of sheep or cow manure.
- 7) Add circles of rich improved soil about 10cm deep by 30cm wide to plant seed or seedlings into.

## Watering and Mulching

Water every day in summer at other times of the year as required. Mulching is beneficial all year round, but is essential during the warmer months in Perth (from about mid October onwards). Good mulching materials are straw, compost and mulching compost.

## Pest Control Control of major Pests:

**Snails:** Baysol snail pellets are the best (but beware of pets and children).

Multigard is pet friendly product made from Iron.

Otherwise:

Try saw dust barriers (they don't like to cross) or homemade beer traps pour old beer into a container and sink into ground to ground level (snails, drink, fall in and drown).

Leave up turned pots with one side slightly propped up (snails hide in) or short cut lengths of white retic pipe.

## Hunt down and kill the blighters!

**Caterpillars:** Biological sprays such as Dipel and Success are particularly useful for caterpillar pests. Begin spraying as soon as damage is noticed.

Organic sprays such as Beat a Bug are useful for a range of insect pests. Or

Try your own homemade garlic spray.

Ingredients:

100g of freshly copped garlic

2 table spoons of Pest Oil

500mls water

30g pure soap.

Soak the chopped garlic in 2 table spoons of pest oil for 48 hours (leave in shed..it smells!).

Add 500mls water and 30g of grated pure soap. Mix well until soap is dissolved.

Strain mix through a stocking and store the liquid in a well sealed plastic container.

To use this concentrate, dilute it by adding 15mls to each litre of water and spray over plants. It is effective against a wide range of insects including aphids.

## Fertilising

Generally if a veggie bed is properly prepared the soil should be sufficiently rich in organic matter that additional feeding may not be required.

In "No Dig" style gardens once the bed is prepared no additional fertiliser should be required, other than a monthly liquid feed with Seasol. Note once the crop is harvested you simply add more layers of straw and manure and plant your next crop. This style of garden doesn't need feeding in the conventional sense because of the rich organic materials used and active worm populations. After your "No Dig" garden has been in place for a few months, you'll find it's alive with worms and you have the basis of a sustainable veggie garden.

In soil based veggie gardens if you want to add additional fertiliser, follow a few important rules: 1) Don't apply powdered or granulated fertiliser for 4 weeks after planting because if you do you'll burn the roots and 2) When adding fertiliser a light sprinkling will suffice and be sure to water it in well.

The liquid fertiliser Seasol is particularly useful, apply about once a month.

Prepared by **Tim Parker**



**FORRESTFIELD**

160 Hale Road

Ph 94536533

Fax 94539520

**SWANBOURNE**

153 Railway Street

Ph 93849652

Fax 93832108

**O'CONNOR**

388 South Street

Ph 93147258

Fax 93147264

**JOONDALUP**

Cnr Joondalup Drv

& Cord St

Ph 93000733

Fax 93001244

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Vegetable	Month to sow from seed												* Time to maturity from seed (weeks)
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Artichokes (globe)				•	•	•	•	•	•				20-28
Asparagus (crowns)						•	•						16-24
Beans (dwarf)	•	•							•	•	•	•	8-10
Beans (climbing)	•								•	•	•	•	10-12
Beetroot	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•	10-12
Broad Beans				•	•	•	•						18-20
Broccoli	•	•	•	•	•							•	12-16
Brussels Sprouts	•	•	•									•	16-20
Cabbage	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	8-16
Capsicum								•	•	•	•	•	10-16
Carrots	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•	16-20
Cauliflower	•	•	•									•	14-26
Celery	•	•						•	•	•	•	•	20-22
Chicory	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•	16-20
Chinese Cabbage	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	8-10
Choko									•	•	•	•	12-15
Cucumber	•								•	•	•	•	8-12
Eggplant									•	•	•	•	14-16
Endive	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•	8-12
Kohl Rabi	•	•	•					•	•	•			8-10
Leeks	•	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	12-20
Lettuce	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	8-12
Marrow	•								•	•	•	•	8-14
Mellons									•	•	•	•	14-16
Okra									•	•	•	•	16-20
Onions			•	•	•	•	•						24-32
Onions (spring)	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	8-12
Parsnip	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•	18-20
Peas (dwarf)		•	•	•	•	•	•	•					12-16
Peas (climbing)		•	•	•	•	•	•	•					14-16
Potatoes (tubers)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				16-20
Pumpkin									•	•	•	•	14-16
Radish	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	6-8
Rhubarb	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	8-12
Salsify	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•	20-22
Silver Beet	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•	8-12
Spinach		•	•	•	•	•							8-10
Squash									•	•	•	•	12-14
Swedes	•	•	•										12-16
Sweet Corn	•								•	•	•	•	12-16
Sweet Potatoes									•	•	•		18-20
Tomato									•	•	•	•	12-20
Turnips	•	•	•	•									10-12
Zucchini	•								•	•	•	•	8-12
<b>Herbs</b>													
Basil	•	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	8
Chives	•	•							•	•	•	•	8
Coriander			•	•	•				•	•	•		6
Dill	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	8
Fennel			•	•	•				•	•	•		12
Garlic (plant cloves)				•	•	•							16-20
Majorom	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	8
Mint			•	•	•				•	•	•		8-12
Oregano	•	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	8-12
Parsley	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	12-16
Rocket			•	•	•				•	•	•		7-8
Rosemary	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	(Establish plants all year round)
Sage	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	8
Thyme	•	•							•	•	•	•	8-10
<b>DAWSONS GARDEN WORLD</b>													
Forrestfield			Swanbourne			O'Connor			Joondalup				
Ph 94536533			Ph 93849652			Ph 93147258			Ph 9300073				