

Soil-ed

#5
Jan-Feb

NEWSLETTER OF THE *Beaconsfield Neighbourhood House* COMMUNITY GARDEN


Welcome back avid gardeners for our fifth edition!

Hello again from our bi-monthly instalment of *Soil-ed* — your one-stop shop for tips and news from the local gardening community. We hope you have had a great holiday and your new year is off to a cracking start.




A surprise find! A massive 6 kg Rondo zucchini

Goings On

As always there are things happening at the community garden; plants are growing and beginning to produce wonderful fruit and vegetables. One of our biggest successes so far has been our range of zucchini - Rondos, Blacks and Lebanese. We found a Rondo hiding in the back of the pack and when it was brought in, it weighed a little over 6 kg. Now that is some serious zucchini slice right there, so come on in and grab yourself some zucchini! We even have some fantastic recipes and tips for cooking and preparing them. “See the attached sheet” 

Calling More Volunteers!

We are looking for more volunteers to help out in the community garden. If you have an hour or two to spare and would love to meet a wonderful bunch of people, have a cup of tea or coffee and enjoy the bounty that is gardening while learning new stuff along the way then by all means please stop by and register your interest. Our door is always open. 

Seedlings for sale:

- Plum root stock (naturally seeded)
- Raspberry (1st year)
- Marigold (French)

All seedlings are \$2.50 ea

More to come in the following weeks.



What to plant and sow in:

JANUARY

PLANT: Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, capsicum, cauliflower, celery, cucumber, eggplant, leek, lettuce, parsnip, pumpkin, silverbeet, late sweet corn and tomato.

SOW: Beetroot, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, winter cabbage, kale, carrot (main winter-spring crop), kohlrabi, spring onion, silverbeet, late swede, turnip, lettuce (chill seed in fridge first), late sweetcorn.

FEBRUARY

PLANT: Seedlings of broccoli, Brussels sprouts, winter cabbage, kale, cauliflower, celery, leek, lettuce, silverbeet and spring onion.

SOW: Broccoli, carrot, cabbage, cauliflower, late Brussels sprouts, leek, turnip, late swede (risky), beetroot, Chinese brassicas, Asian roots, parsnip, and silverbeet.



The Garden

We currently have for sale:

- Zucchini (Black, Lebanese and Rondo)
- Strawberries
- Plums
- Spring onions
- Butter/yellow beans
- Rhubarb



Our tomatoes, capsicums and potatoes will be ready in the next month or so along with our sweet corn, Asian greens and other goodies. 🏠

Coming Up

With the holiday break over and done with, it is now time to get back into work mode and get stuff done. With the kind donations of cardboard boxes from one of the IGAs in town we are able to push on with expanding the raised beds in the market garden. More beds = more produce, and a new system for the gardening crew. We will be focused more on integrated systems and successive plantings to help benefit our garden and the community. 🏠

Permaculture Principle # 5 – Use and Value Renewable Resources & Services (Let Nature Take Its Course)

Renewable resources are those that are renewable and replaced by natural processes over reasonable periods, without the need for major non-renewable inputs. In the language of business, renewable resources should be seen as our source of income, while non-renewable resources can be thought of as capital assets. Spending our capital assets for day-to-day living is unsustainable in anyone's language. Permaculture design should aim to make the best of renewable natural resources to manage and maintain yields, even if some use of non-renewable resources is needed in establishing systems.

The proverb “Let nature take its course” reminds us of another aspect of this principle – that the pursuit of total control over nature through use of resources and technology is not only expensive; it can also lead to a spiral of intervention and degradation in biological systems and processes which already represent the best balance between productivity and diversity.

I can be found in or around the garden on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Feel free to drop in to say ‘hi’ and have a cuppa.



In Closing...

1. Care for the Earth
2. Care for People
3. Share the Excess



‘It is up to us to grow a better tomorrow’ — “D”