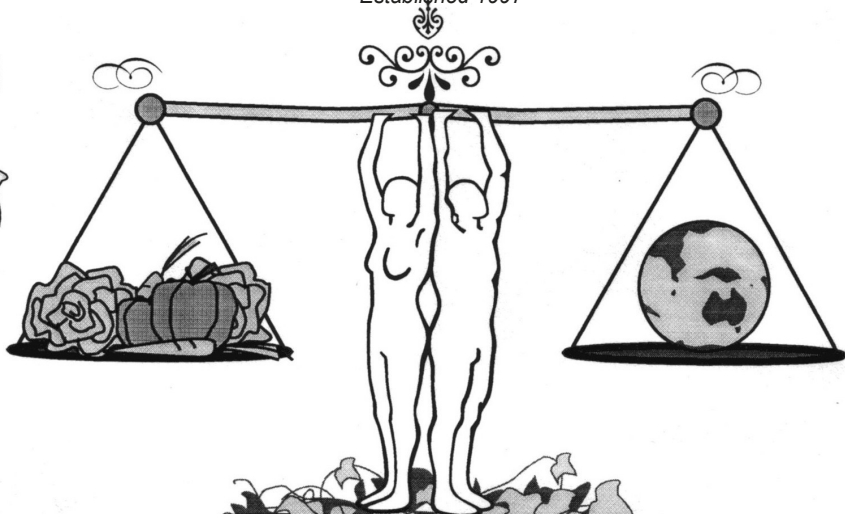


GOLD COAST ORGANIC GROWERS Inc.

Established 1997



NEWSLETTER

Volume 21 - SEPTEMBER 2017 Issue 9
GARDENING IN SPRING

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OUR NEXT MEETING: Thursday 19th Oct 2017

Notice Board

1. **To promote organic sustainable food raising for home gardens and farms.**
2. **To foster research into improved methods of organic farming and gardening.**
3. **To provide information and support to all those interested in the various aspects of organic growing.**

Meetings Held:

3rd Thursday of the Month

The Meeting Place, Cnr Guineas Creek Rd and Coolgardie St, Elanora.

Doors open: 7:00 pm. **Begin at 7:30 pm**

Entry is \$1 members, \$3 visitors.

(No meeting in December)

Annual Membership Fees:

Single: \$20. Family: \$30.

To renew or start memberships please transfer funds directly into our bank account, send cheques (payable to GCOG) to Diane Kelly, or just pay at the door.

Name: Gold Coast Organic Growers

Bank: Suncorp

BSB: 484-799

Account: 0014-21651

Seed Bank:

Packets are \$2.00 each.

Members' Market Corner:

Please bring plants, books and produce you wish to sell or trade.

Raffle Table:

This relies on the kind generosity of members to donate items on the night. Tickets - \$1 each or 3 for \$2.

Library:

Books 50c, Videos, DVDs \$2, Soil Test Kit \$2. Available to members for 1 month.

Advertising: (Note 11 issues/year)

1/4 page: \$10 an issue, or \$100 per year

1/2 page: \$20 an issue or \$200 per year

full page: \$30 an issue or \$300 per year

W: www.goldcoastorganicgrowers.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/gcorganic

2017 Committee

President	Maria Roberson (07) 5598 6609
Vice President	Diane Kelly (07) 5522 7444
Treasurer	Diane Kelly (07) 5522 7444
Secretary	Cathie Hodge 0406 575 233 cathie.hodge@gmail.com
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Guest Speaker Liaison	Rachel Lebeter 0407 906 955 rachaellebeter@gmail.com
Librarians	Ann Brown 0403 936 360 Dayne Petersen
Seed Bank Seed Assistants	Lyn Mansfield 0409 645 888 Maggie Golightly Bill Smart
Supper Co-ordinator	Heather Ryan 0409 577 499 Deb Phillips

Newsletter Contributions are welcome. Send in a photo of what's going on in your patch. **Deadline for contributions is the one week before the meeting.** Send your content to Dorothy Coe at: dorothy@dorothycoe.com

Notice Board

Membership Renewals

NEW: You can now pay your membership fee directly into the GCOG bank account.

Name: Gold Coast Organic Growers
Bank: Suncorp
BSB: 484-799
Account: 0014-21651

Remember to put your Name and Member- ship Number in the comment field.

Note the number in brackets after your name is your membership number - you will need to quote this number in the comment field, if you pay via online banking.

Membership Renewals – Sept 2017:

Overdue: Karen Auchere (147), Barbara Talty (58), Mea Lee Khoo (211), Peter & Jan Fleming (287), Debbie Chesterfield (410), Justin & Jerry Rogers (275), Scott McCormack (334), Warren & Bev Carlson (87), Gordon & Dorothy Singh (241), Wolfgang Dempsey (258), Peter & Leanne Dickfos (260), Jan Guest (307), Geraldine McDonald (354), Dayne Petersen (377), Caroline Li (395), Lieu Searston (412)

September: Henry Blonner (108), Beth Orme (343), Grant Fastier (379), Michael Cuthbertson (396), Anne Butler (398), Barbara Westmore (413)

October: Glen & Joan Jones (266), Amy Lukens & John Palmer (357), Evelyn Douglas (383), Winny Hu Shouhe (414), Colleen Rohan (415)

Latest newsletter can be downloaded from the site at goldcoastorganicgrowers.org

Thanks to Contributors this month:

Diane Kelly, Dorothy Coe, Rachael Lebeter, Jill Barber, Megan Keeler.

Upcoming Guest Speakers

October – TBA.

November – It's our birthday!! And our Christmas party! Event details TBA.

Workshops

Abilities Plus – Permaculture

For more information and bookings contact
Lyn Mansfield M: 0409 645 888
E: lynmansfield14@bigpond.com
W: <http://abilitiespluspermaculture.com/>

25 Sept	9.30 to 11.30am	Gardening Class Joan Park Community Garden, Joan Street, Southport
30 Sept	11:30 to 4:30 pm	Rose Society Annual Show Robina Community Centre
7 Oct	9.30am to 11.30am	Working Bee Joan Park Community Garden Joan Street, Southport
8 Oct	9.30 to 11am	Garden Tour Logan Food Gardeners 18 Lima Street, Holmvie
9 Oct	9.30 to 11.30am	Gardening Class Joan Park Community Garden, Joan Street, Southport

Ediblescapes

Saturday 14 Oct - 8:30 am to 10:30 am

Food Forest - a diverse mix of edible plants. Workshop will include a visit to a near local semi-wild diverse food-forest urban experience. **(10 minute driving)**

Nerang's Country Paradise Parkland on the geoglyph site.

Saturday 11 Nov - 8:30 am to 10:30 am

Veggie/produce swap and talk on seed saving. For more information email to Contact@ediblescapes.org
www.facebook.com/n.ediblescapes/

Can We Help?

In the section BELOW our members can ask about cuttings, seeds or plants that they would like to obtain, or where we could let others know about any bits and pieces that we might have spare and would like to share.

So if you would like to let the Club members know about any particular plant you are looking for, or if you can help out and provide a plant that someone has asked about. please email Dorothy with the details at dorothy@dorothycoe.com

Offers / Wants / Swap / Share

EDIBLE PLANTS, TREES, CUTTINGS DONATIONS OR SWAP REQUIRED

To support the start up of Ediblescapes (Edible Forest Landscape Project) at Nerang they are looking for donations of Edible Plants, Fruit Trees, Seedlings & Cuttings AND/OR Jorge can organise a swap deal whereby he will swap bags of compost for edible trees.

This will help them get the community edible landscape established.

If you can help now or in the future please contact Jorge at:
ediblescape.nerang@gmail.com

PLANT POTS, NATIVE PLANTS, EDIBLE TREES, SEEDLINGS, CUTTINGS REQUIRED

If anyone has any spare unwanted plant pots or **any** types of plants, trees, or cuttings (edible or non edible) please contact Cathy Beard as she is collecting them for an ongoing project down in Murwillumbah to help the people that had their gardens and homes flooded during the last storm.

This will be an ongoing project until further notice so if you don't have anything right now but might have something in the future please keep her in mind.

Also if anyone wants to be more actively involved helping Cathy with potting and planting or even offering storage over the coming months please let her know. Cathy can be reached on 0428 816 173



GROUND

— GROCER —

Go to Ground on Saturdays

**Local seasonal organic produce,
cold-pressed juices, Burleigh
Baker sourdoughs**

7am to 1pm

Primary supplier Food Connect Co-op

Join the Ground Co-op for wholesale prices

Please contact us with your excess produce, we pay market prices for commercial quantities and accept smaller amounts on consignment.

@ The EcoVillage, 639 Currumbin Creek Rd,
Currumbin Valley
paul@groundcurrumbin.com.au

Join The Diggers Club at Byron Bay

The weekend promises to be a stand out gardening event with a dozen Workshops and Masterclasses with experts including Phil Dudman of ABC Gardening Australia, author Claire Bickle and The Garden of St Erth's Head Gardener Julian Blackhurst.

Full details at <https://www.diggers.com.au/whats-on/the-farm/>

Guest Speaker – Green Heroes – Creating the Next Generation of Conservationists – August Meeting

Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future – John F. Kennedy

I believe that John F. Kennedy was right when he spoke about the importance of children – the attitudes, values and beliefs that we cultivate in our children, and the experiences that we share with the young people in our lives, will shape the way that they see and interact with the world around them.

Sarah Jantz, our August guest speaker from the local non-profit Green Heroes, shared this fact with us at the beginning of her presentation: By the time children are 7, they have begun to form concrete moral and ethical ideas about the world, their place in it and how they should interact with the people, animals and environment around them. Which for me raises a key issue: In the urbanized and sterilized Western World, how can we expect a child to grow up to nurture, protect, or even respect, a natural world that they have so little experience of?

This is the central question that Green Heroes is addressing through their community events and projects. Founded by three friends – Nicole, a marine biologist, Jordyn, an environmental scientist, and Sarah, a well-travelled humanitarian aid worker, nurse, wildlife carer and mother of three – in 2015, Green Heroes has the inspiring mission of Creating the Next Generation of Conservationists.

Sarah and her co-founders see children in nature – wild kids – as an “endangered indicator species.” Just as amphibians are an indicator species for the health of our waterways, so too are the attitudes and experiences of children indicative of both the health and direction of our society. With this in mind, Green Heroes is dedicated to connecting kids with the environment, and have the long-term goal of creating a bush-camp where kids are free to just be in nature and satisfy their inher-

ent curiosity. Through their education packs and community events, the group is nurturing the connection of our youth to the environment and using this to empower young people to take action for issues that concern them.

In partnership with a range of well-known environmental and community groups, including Naturally GC (a GCCC Parks & Recreation program), Green Heroes offers monthly events for kids, facilitating natural experiences as well as involvement in conservation projects. The exciting list of activities and projects includes:

- Dune regeneration with Dune Care at Fingal Head
- Tree plantings for koala food-trees
- Marine science and rock pool explorations at Hastings Point
- Beach clean ups
- Raising funds for conservation organisations such as the Ballina Byron Sea Turtle Hospital
- Making Boomerang Bags to reduce plastic use

In addition to monthly events, Green Heroes has a variety of other educational projects underway. They have created a variety of resource kits that use inquiry-based learning to engage primary-school children with environmental issues such as wildlife rehabilitation and plastic-free living. They also offer children's party packs that allow donations to be made in the child's name instead of presents. Additionally, Green Heroes is starting a Home for Homes partnership with local construction companies, where materials will be provided to build a wildlife home, such as a nesting box for possums, bats or birds, for each new home built; children will construct the wildlife homes, and the construction company will install them to off-set environmental damage. There is hope for a tree-based art installation during the up-coming Commonwealth Games, and Green Heroes also works with local pre-schools in order to provide nature experiences - facilitating workshops making pouches for wildlife rehabilitation which are donated to the carers at Wildcare (the

Continued from previous page....

SEQ wildlife carers) and Tweed Valley Carers; installing native bee hives with BeeAware Kids; and planting Richmond Birdwing vines and engaging with chrysalis kits provided by GC Butterflies.

There is no doubt Sarah, Jordyn and Nicole are three very busy women! And I think for everyone who attended our August meeting, hearing about all of these projects was very hopeful. It is so encouraging to know that kids are being given the opportunity to be interact with nature even when they live in an urban area. It is easy to see that there is as much benefit in these interactions for the kids as there are for the organisations involved, which are essentially securing volunteers and awareness for the future.

And the conservation projects that older Green Heroes members are now undertaking are a clear indication that facilitating this connection in the young really does work. There are 10-12 year olds who are now motivating for waste-free schools and cafes, or plastic-free stores, on their own!

As quoted by Sarah - Every child is a born naturalist. We can see it in their inherent curiosity and excitement about the world around them. Children are the next generation in conservation – they are the only hope we have for the environment and the millions of creatures we share this planet with. It is through the young that we can begin to make a change to the way that we think and behave, and it is so inspiring to see that Sarah and Green Heroes is doing just that!

By Rachael Lebetter

Hints for “All Things Gardening” from Diane Kelly

No Dig - Gardening

For this month, we are looking at hints for “No-Dig” gardening. This method may not be traditional, but it is definitely easier, cheaper, and an opportunity to try something different. So, what hints can we learn about the concept of “No-Dig” gardening?

1. Firstly, an extract from Esther Deans’ (the originator of “no-dig” gardening) book:

“Make a garden at the end of August, when it is the season to plant out summer vegetables such as zucchini, cucumber, squash and pumpkin. At the other end of the garden, plant out eight seed potatoes on the lucerne (i.e. under the straw) with a little compost around each one.”

This provides an ideal situation for the rotation of crops – alternating a leafy crop with a root vegetable and vice versa. For example, follow a potato crop with cabbage one. Water the garden after planting the seeds and then according to need, keeping the soil just damp.

2. After a few months, at the finish of the leafy summer crops, the layers of the garden will have composted down and melted into each other, and now the ground is ready for the second crop, which will be productive during the winter months. *No digging is needed.* You just add a layer of compost or manure, and plant your seeds of turnips, carrots, onions, spinach, cauliflower or cabbage.
3. Remember to plant vegetables in patches rather than rows, and remember to rotate the crop!”

So they are a few hints about growing vegies. What else can we learn about the “no-dig” method of growing yummy food?

- (a) As potatoes grow and swell, make sure they are well covered by straw to

prevent “greening” which poisons the potato. Don’t dig potatoes, but rather simply part the straw and collect the crop. If the soil is dry, you won’t even need to wash them for storage! (I’ve also tried Peter Cundall’s “No Soil” method of growing potatoes – and it is so exciting to pull beautiful spuds out of a garden bed with no dirt on them!)

- (b) Cabbage should be grown following a root crop – grow several sage plants in your cabbage patch, as they help repel white cabbage moths and other insects.
- (c) Beans will grow happily in any well-drained, good soil. Don’t give them too much nitrogen, as this will make them leafy. Beans need plenty of water during hot weather, but make sure you don’t water the leaves during the warm part of the day.
- (d) A hint about celery – although the general opinion is that it is hard to germinate, this is not the case if your soil is rich and healthy. Esther Deans wrote in her book that “I allow my best plants to go to seed, because good seed means a good plant”.
- (e) Don’t worry too much about weeding a “no-dig” garden. Weeds can be helpful in binding soil so that it is not impacted by heavy rain. Leave a few weeds around the edges – they won’t destroy a garden or rob the plants of too much nutrition.
- (f) One final word of advice from Esther Deans’ book – “One of the most important things about the “no-dig” garden is just that – *don’t dig it!* Digging a no-dig garden can spoil the wonderful work that Nature is doing for you – earthworms will be cultivating the soil, and they do not like to be disturbed, so let them work in peace.
- (g) And a final word from someone who loves “no-dig” gardening – add an area into your garden; follow the guidelines of preparing a garden; plant out some seeds or seedlings – and ENJOY !!

Recipes

Recipes and Supper Table

Chocolate Mousse

A treat from Megan Keeler

- ½ avocado
- ¼ cup aloe gel
- ½ papaya or mango
- ¼ cup coconut milk/cream
- 1-2 T coconut oil
- honey to taste
- 3T cacao
- 1T vanilla
- cinnamon
- mint

Process all together. Cool. Great with whipped cream.

Thank you to those leaving their name with their Supper Table offering so we can ask you for the ingredients/recipe!

Please email your yummy recipes to Jill jillbarber611@gmail.com

Join The Diggers Club at The Farm, Byron Bay for a BIG weekend of gardening...

The weekend promises to be a stand out gardening event with a dozen Workshops and Masterclasses with experts including Phil Dudman of ABC Gardening Australia, author Claire Bickle and The Garden of St Erth's Head Gardener Julian Blackhirst.

Full details at <https://www.diggers.com.au/whats-on/the-farm/>

**If you Only Do one Thing this month –
Consider a “No-Dig Garden”
By Diane Kelly**

This article is only for those who are time-poor; have back pain or other health problems; who like to try something different; who like to save money; or who find soil purchased from nurseries or hardware stores somewhat lacking – or who are willing to admit they tend to be a bit lazy!

For all others, please find something else that you would like to read ☐.

For the past sixteen or so years, all my vegetable gardening has been done by the “No-Dig” principle, so this month I would like to encourage you to try a bit of gardening done by the method first made credible by Esther Deans back in around 1975.

Esther Deans’ philosophy for gardening is that “one should be able to enjoy the results of successful vegetable growing (as well as other plants) without tiresome “spade” work”. She regarded her garden as “simplicity itself” – and in today’s busy world, surely that is an appealing concept! Esther Deans commencement into “no-dig” gardening began in her backyard in Sydney when it became infested with white grubs (the larvae of scarab beetles). Uncomfortable with the advice to use poison to eradicate the grubs, Esther decided to improve the soil until the grubs were forced to leave. She had read years previously about the benefits of using lucerne hay – the deep roots of which bring up from the earth minerals, trace elements and other valuable nutriment – and so she ordered some from the local produce store. Esther tells the story in her book “No-dig gardening & the Leaves of Life” of how the delivery man brought those first bales of hay to her backyard – and then looked around for the horse – and was further puzzled when Esther explained the lucerne was for her garden!

Anyway, as the introduction to her book goes, Esther spread the pads of lucerne hay over her backyard; added some earthworms and some compost; and then started watering.

The area was left to “work” for some six weeks, and then Esther planted out bean seeds. As she wrote, the results were splendid – and that was the genesis of her “no-dig” gardening. To give dimension to “splendid” – the best crop in that plot yielded 22.5 kgs of potatoes from an area measuring 2.5 metres x 1.75 metres wide. Following on from that beginning, Esther Deans went on to share her methods through gardening clubs, Senior Citizens Clubs, and other community groups. There were radio interviews – perhaps a few of you remember Keith Smith from Radio Australia? – successes at local Horticultural Shows; and then an “Open Garden”. Thousands of people have since signed the visitors’ book, and Esther commented in her book that “sharing is caring”, and that she was pleased that so many people have used her principles of gardening since the time she first began her “no-dig” garden.

So ... what is this “no-dig” gardening actually about? The concept is that you can build a garden on top of the existing ground - without bringing in large amounts of soil. For those of us with a lawned backyard – you can make a garden! And for any of us with a concrete backyard – you can make a garden! The idea is to:

- a) Put down a layer of newspapers a good half centimetre thick – making sure it is overlapping with each layer so that the lawn/grass is stopped from growing through. (Note: you don’t need to remove any lawn before starting the process – the lack of sunlight will stop grass or weeds growing)
- b) Water the newspaper well
- c) Cover the newspaper with pads of lucerne hay
- d) Water the lucerne hay pads well
- e) Cover the hay with a light dusting of organic fertilizer or dry poultry manure
- f) Water the fertilizer in well
- g) Cover the area with loose straw. (I have used barley straw or more lucerne – either have similar benefits)
- h) Sprinkle the straw with some loose fertilizer – I use horse manure (available in Mudgeeraba for \$2.50 a bag) or cow manure (commercially purchased).

- i) Then add some good compost (7-10 cms) deep for an area in which to sow the seeds for your veggie crops. (I confess I don't do this step - I add a mixture of soil and mushroom compost in pockets on another layer of hay, and that has proved successful so far. The reason? I don't have enough compost.)
- j) Then you plant out whatever seeds/seedlings you would like to enjoy over the next few months

Esther Dean estimates that two bales of lucerne hay and one bale of straw will make a good-sized garden – from my most recent planting out of four new veggie patches (at a metre square), I think a bale of lucerne hay; two bags of horse manure; a bag of soil & mushroom mix; and a good watering will do the trick. (Basic cost: \$20.00 max) Out of that you can grow snow peas, tomatoes, lettuce, sweet corn, cucumbers, shallots, herbs and much more.

So why not try a perhaps different style of growing vegies – and indeed flower and herbs. I've included a few pictures that show that Esther Deans' method does work – it produces quality garden beds; it seems to maintain moisture very well; it certainly encourages worms to the garden beds; and it produces quality vegies and flowers. All the attached photos are from my gardens grown via this method.

If you would like any help with setting up a new garden using this method, or if you have any questions, please let me know – I'd be happy to give you a hand.

Diane Kelly – 0403 473 892 -
dianekelly@bigpond.com

p.s. My latest project is planting out containers for a "no-dig" garden display at a local craft fair. The seedlings were doing very well, until an ibis decided to visit. But a bit of re-planting, and a covering of bird netting, soon saw the seedlings standing tall again.

p.p.s. Here are some photos - my home garden; the community garden (corn in abundance!) – and even flowers doing beautifully

by the same method! Plus my gardening helper.



Snow peas, tomatoes, lettuce, shallots, silver beet – just walk out the back door to enjoy!



Community garden – sweet corn, sweet corn and sweet corn – plenty to give away!



Alyssum, or candi-tuft – they spread so easily among the pansies and chrysanthums – when I watered them at dusk, the white just glowed. Highly recommended to try!

Continued from previous page....

And nothing to do with no-dig gardening, but very special to my backyard(although I do wish he would keep out of my veggie patch!)



Jill's Garden Update

Yay! Just ate our first broccoli this season!! What's the fuss? You are probably saying, We ate ours months ago. Well, each year up till now I seem to have got mine going too late to actually have them mature in time before the heat and the bugs annihilated them. (Remember, my fractured foot and the moonboot held me back from planting them earlier this year, too – May newsletter).

Also, to be fair, we *have* been consuming salad greens (Megan's amazing lettuce, silverbeet, shallots, several different kales, mizuna, tatsoi from Anne Marie's seeds, beet tops, parsley, Osaka mustard greens, mustard ruby streaks, mukuna wenna, Surinam spinach from Megan) at a great rate for months... and hope to continue doing so for several more months. We're holding back the white cabbage moths with my husband, Graeme, swatting away with his squash racquet, plus egg shells placed in all the brassicas to fool the moths into thinking other

moths have beaten them to this spot, So no laying your eggs here!



We're now also gobbling up the beans and carrots and beets and some sweet potatoes. Sadly, I never have had any of the parsnip seeds germinate. However, one of the loveliest things about our garden this year is that I can greet visiting friends and family with a bag to collect up a feed of all the above greens for themselves. And where they've taken copious amounts of lettuce leaves and parsley, for example, it doesn't look as if anything has gone! I feel so abundant and blessed this year. It really makes up for all those years of non-germination, diseases, tastelessness, and any of the setbacks that we've all experienced over time.

I have to acknowledge that, apart from my hard work, credit goes to many sources, to the idea of continuing to do green manuring, to making and adding compost consistently, to adding palagonite for the minerals and biochar periodically, to the lucerne mulch and last but not least, Biodynamic 500 regularly (thanks to the ongoing support of Lise Racine). Of course, the sharing of ideas and solutions and general feelings of wellbeing have come from attendance at our GCOG meetings every month. For all of us here, I am sure, many thanks go to Maria and Diane, especially, as well as to everyone who contributes to keeping them running and being a special event to go to each month.



Jill Barber

Interesting Articles From Jill Barber

Here are some interesting articles on GM safety from Jill Barber which were sourced from the **Biodynamic Growing, June 2017** magazine.

Also please note that the and the 4 articles from Jill last month were also from the same publication but I forgot to included this info.

GM Safety Claims Debunked

One of the main pillars supporting the proposition that GM foods are safe is the idea of “substantial equivalence”, whereby if a GM plant looks similar to a closely related non-GM equivalent, and is compositionally nearly the same, with the exception of extra proteins that make the variety, for example resistant to glyphosate herbicide. This convenient concept allows GM companies and regulators to avoid having to conduct lengthy safety trials (the few lengthy trials that have been conducted have revealed serious

GM Maize MON810 Dangerous

A study by Ibrahim and Okasha “Effects of genetically modified corn on the jejunal mucosa of adult male albino rat” published in the *Journal of Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology* has found that after only 90 days of a feeding trial comparing GM MON810 maize with a closely related non-GM maize, the group fed GM maize suffered severe damage to the intestinal villi (involved in food absorption). Two earlier rat feeding trials (by Egyptian scientists) on the same GM maize showed differences in organ and body weights and blood biochemistry. The authors suggested that these changes could have potentially adverse health/toxic effects.



HERB FARM

Michael & Sandra Nanka
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CURRENT SEEDS FOR SALE—\$2 A PACKET

Alyssum	Dill	Pumpkin Gold Nugget
Bean Climbing Blue lake	Echinacea Purpurea	QueenAnne Lace
Beetrott Bulls Blood	Eggplant Long Purple	Radish French Breakfast
Borage	Fennel	Rocket
Broccoli Calabrese	Garlic Chives	Shallot
Bush Bean Redland Pioneer	Giant Orange Cosmos	Shanghai Pak Tsoi
Bush Bean Royal Burgundy	Jicama Yam	Silverbeet Fordhook
Cabbage Chinese	Kale Red Russian	Silverbeet Rainbow
Capsicum Californian Wonder	Lettuce Paris Island Cos	Small Cheery Tomato
Carrot Nantes	Lettuce Red Oak	Snake Bean
Celery Tendercrisp	Lettuce Summer Harvest	Squash Table Gem Bush
Climbing Bean Blue Lake	Moringa Tree	Sunflower Sunbird
Clucker Tucker	Mouse Melon	Sweet Basil
Coriander	Nasturtium	Tatsoi
Cosmos mixed	Orange Marigolds	Upland Watercrss
Cucumber Labanese	Pak Choi	Watermelon Warpaint
Cucumber Muncher	Parsley Italian	Zucchini Black Beauty

Three Figs Café & Greenbird Gallery

- Locally made delicious food
- Big range of coffees and teas
- Old farmhouse setting
- Shady gardens and landscaping
- Handmade gifts & homewares

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The Ecovillage, 639 Currumbin Creek Rd
Currumbin Valley

For bookings phone Mirella 0419 170 654

*"An enjoyable experience on so many levels
– lovely ambience, yummy food and coffee,
interesting things to see and buy.*

Don't miss it!"

GC Visitors Guide 2013

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for video tutorials,
fact sheets and
gardening articles
to help get you
started.



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DIGGERS.COM.AU

Ediblescapes Update

Some of you are already aware of the new Ediblescapes project which was initiated by one of our members Jorge Cantallano at the Nerang Paradise Parklands.

Ediblescapes is a proposed public space where it's members of the project will plant fruit trees and edible perennials for the general public to enjoy. The first public edible space will be at the Nerang Country Paradise Parklands.

Ediblescapes is still waiting for council approval but in the meantime it's members which consists of a small group at the moment have been promoting the project through monthly gardening workshops and also at events eg. the recent Botanical Bazar Garden Expo which was a great success.

At the garden expo we had great exposure and we received interest from over 50 members of the general public that were either interested in helping with the project eg. planting, admin, helping with monthly workshops, etc or who were interested in attending the monthly gardening events & talks.

At the expo we presented a Geoglyph garden mock-up design over 1000 square meters which looks very impressive.

The geoglyph garden mock-up design is a learning tool and allows for Ediblescapes members, Parkland tenants and users and the general public to do a walk through the intended garden pathway, and imagine a growing edible forest garden and they can

get an idea of the layout and how it will look once finished.

As we move forward with this project we welcome all feedback which can help us in the future with the implementation phases.

Ediblescapes invite you to visit the Nerang's Parkland to appreciate the geoglyph artwork from the distance and walking through the pathways to have a feeling its potential and restrictions.

Ediblescapes open activities are on the second Saturday of the Month.

Next activity:

Saturday 14 October

8:30 am to 10:30 am

Nerang's Country Paradise Parkland on the geoglyph site.

Topic of study: Food Forest- a diverse mix of edible plants.

Workshop will include a visit to a near local semi-wild diverse food-forest urban experience. (10 minute driving)

On November 11th, Ediblescapes will hold a second fruit/veggie swap and talk topic on seed saving.

All welcome

For more information email to

Contact@ediblescapes.org

And see our facebook's Edible Forest Landscape Project page at www.facebook.com/n.ediblescapes/

Nerang Ediblescapes

Edible Forest Landscape Project



FRUIT TREES

SEPTEMBER

Custard Apple: Leaf loss should occur this month. Low irrigation. Mulch trees. This month is the best time to prune custard apples. 1/3 of old wood needs to be taken off.

Figs: Pruning can be carried out. Be very vigorous. 1/3 can be cut off. Figs are only produced on new wood of the new season's growth. Give trees a good feed of organic fertiliser with sulphate of potash. Mulch well.

Lychee: Increase irrigation. Flowering should start this month. Fertilise trees with an organic fertiliser with potassium sulphate. Give mature trees 1 kg and small trees ½ kg.

Low chill stone fruit: Carry out final thinning. Stone hardening will occur this month. Continue with high irrigation. Prune out water shoots and dense foliage for better sized fruits. Use fruit fly control programs, for example netting or an attractant method.

Mango: Don't let trees dry out. Once flowering occurs spray with copper based spray or leaf microbes for anthracnose, if visible.

Passionfruit: Vines will start to grow this month. Apply a little organic fertiliser with sulphate of potash and mulch vines at least 2 to 3 metres out from the base. 1kg for large vines and ½ kg for smaller vines.

Pawpaw: Spray with wettable sulphur in the evenings for spider mite.

Persimmon: Flowering will start in early varieties. Mulch trees. Low irrigation.

Strawberries: Apply small amount of organic fertilizer with sulphate of potash. Keep up irrigation. Pick fruit when fully ripe.

OCTOBER

Custard Apple: Increase irrigation. Mulch trees. Apply 2g boron/sqm.

Figs: Pruning should be done. Figs only produce on new wood or new season's growth. Mulch well.

Lychee: Peak water needs. Mulch. Apply gypsum 20gms/sqm.

Low chill stone fruit: Spring prune new growth. Continue with high irrigation. Prune out water shoots and dense foliage for better size fruit. Use fruit fly control programs, for example netting or an attractant method.

Mango: Peak water needs. Apply organic fertiliser with sulphate of potash, 1kg for larger trees and 1/2kg for smaller trees. Spray with copper based spray or leaf microbes for anthracnose per fortnight.

Passion-fruit: Plant out new vines. Pruning carried out this month. All dead parts to go. Keep up the water.

Paw-paw: Increase irrigation. Apply 20 gms per sq m of organic fertiliser.

Strawberries: Apply small amount of organic fertiliser with sulphate of potash, about 10g / plant. Keep up with fish emulsion or kelp spray weekly.

Bananas: Have one plant with fruit on, one half grown and one sucker. Discard all others. De-sucker plants by cutting down to centre with a sharp knife taking the centre out and add 1teaspoon of kerosene in the well.

Citrus: Keep up the water. Add lime or gypsum. Mature trees 1/2kg, 1/4kg for small trees.

Brisbane Organic Growers Handbook

VEGETABLES

SEPTEMBER:

Artichoke, Asian greens, Asparagus, Beans (French), Beetroots, Capsicum, Carrot, Celery, Chilli, Choko, Cucumber, Eggplant, Gourd, Kale, Leeks, Lettuce, Luffa, Marrow, Melons, Mustard Greens, Okra, Peanut, Pumpkin, Radish, Rosella, Shallots, Silverbeet, Squash, Sunflower, Sweet corn, Sweet Potato, Tomato, Zucchini.

OCTOBER:

Artichoke, Asian Greens, Asparagus, Beans (French), Beetroot, Capsicum, Carrot, Celery, Chilli, Choko, Cucumber, Eggplant, Gourd, Kale, Lettuce, Luffa, Marrow, Melons, Mustard Greens, Okra, Peanut, Pumpkin, Radish, Rosella, Shallots, Squash, Sunflower, Sweet Corn, Sweet Potato, Tomato, Zucchini.

HERBS

SEPTEMBER:

Annual: Basil, Borage, Calendula, Chamomile, Coriander, Dill, Herb Robert, Italian parsley, Misome, Mizuna, Giant Red Mustard, Mustard Lettuce, Nasturtium, Rocket.

Perennials & Bi-Annals: Catnip, Ceylon Spinach, Chicory, Chilli, Chives, Comfrey, Perennial Coriander, Echinacea, Fennel, Hyssop, Lavender, Lemon Balm, Licorice, Lovage, Marjoram, Mint, Mushroom Plant, Oregano, Parsley, Rosemary, Sage, Salad Burnet, Stevia, French Tarragon, Thyme, Upland Cress, Watercress, Winter Savoury.

OCTOBER:

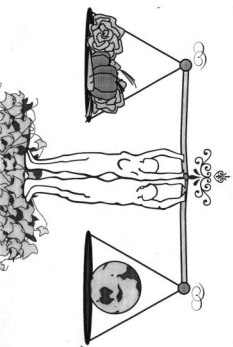
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Whilst every effort is made to publish accurate information the association (including Editor, Executive Officers and Committee) accepts no responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed in this newsletter.

If not claimed in 14 days, please return to:
GCOG, PO Box 210, Mudgeeraba Q 4213

*GOLD COAST ORGANIC
GROWERS Inc.*



NEWSLETTER

Meetings held:
3rd Thursday of the Month

Meeting place:
Cnr Guineas Creek Road
& Coolgardie Street
Elanora, Gold Coast

Next meeting:
Thursday 19th Oct 2017