



Welcome Plot Holder and Member Information kit



This information is for new Mandurah Community Garden members and/ or plot holders. Thank you for your involvement and participation in the Mandurah Community Gardens.

Welcome

- People come to the community garden with very different experiences – some are expert thumbs with knowledge to share, some regular gardeners who experiment and try, and others keen to get involved and learn how to get things growing. Whatever your level of experience in gardening is, Mandurah Community Gardens have a place for everyone.
- Getting hands-on is the best way to learn and attending informal mentoring or workshops will allow any gardening newcomer to get started on their own successful garden in no time.
- The Garden is currently growing herbs, flowers, fruits and vegetables. Organic principles apply to the Garden so chemical pesticides and herbicides are not encouraged.
- Annual memberships and plot fees are due each financial year. Please ensure fees are paid on time or your plot allotment will cease and membership lapse. Upon joining you will receive a code for the front gate lock. This code will change each financial year.
- We encourage all members and plot holders to actively participate in furthering the purpose and objectives of the Garden. This could include (but is not limited to) helping out at busy bees; getting involved in fundraising; volunteering in the communal areas of garden and/or becoming a member of the management committee.
- Busy bees are held once a month. It is hoped that as a member or plot holder your time is donated for at least 3 busy bees a year.

Communication & involvement

- All feedback is welcome at the Garden.
- We encourage you to write all comments and suggestions in the communication book or on the large white board found inside the garden.
- General meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 5.30pm – 7.30pm at the Mandurah Library.
- Busy bees are usually the following Sunday.

For further enquiries email info@mandurahcommunitygardens.com.au

Subscribe to the Mandurah Community Gardens newsletter

www.mandurahcommunitygardens.com.au

Like us on Facebook

Share your skills and knowledge

- We would love you to share your skills and knowledge with other members and plot holders. So please let us know when you sign up how you would like to contribute to the garden.

Opening and closing the garden

All visitors must sign in and out of the Garden. A sign in / out form is located in a prominent position on-site.

Opening the garden

1. Open gate, leaving padlock on the chain.
2. Open shed if required.
3. Read whiteboard, communication book and sign attendance log.

Closing the garden

1. Ensure lights, kettle are turned off.
2. Ensure all dishes are washed and bench left clean.
3. Ensure all tools are washed and returned to correct position.
4. Lock shed door.
5. Ensure main tap is off and hose left neatly in circle or figure 8.
6. Shut main gate and relock, ensure numbers on padlock are spun off so the code is not revealed. Gently tug padlock to check its securely locked.

Soil and sheet mulching



Preparation of Sheet Mulched Instant Garden Bed

The garden bed should be prepared in the following “layers” – “seriously” water each layer.

- Soak newspapers – lay thick layer of newspaper (approx 1 Sunday Times thick), or underlay, on garden bed, overlapping and staggering edges.
- Spread over 3 wheelbarrow loads of manure.
- Spread over 1 bale of straw.
- Add 6 – 7 wheelbarrows of Biowise (optional and if available)

compost (made from biosolids, green organics, grease trap waste and food residue and carefully matured).

- Add 6 wheelbarrows of grass clippings or 2 wheelbarrows of manure.
- Add thick layer of mulch 40mm – 50 mm thick.
- Add a light sprinkling of Rock Dust on top of final layer of mulch. (Rock Dust contains essential vitamins and minerals. It is not a manure and takes a long time to break down).
- The garden bed now needs time to mature – begin planting plants in a mixture of Biowise/sand (no weeds) and manure.
- Garden bed should be continually topped up with a combination of mulch, straw, Biowise, compost.

Preparation of Compost Beds

Create layers of the following:

- Loose covering of shredded newspaper or dried leaves
- 1 wheelbarrow of grass clippings (green lupins etc)
- ¼ bale of straw
- ½ wheelbarrow of manure
- Add a light sprinkling of Rock Dust on top of final layer (Rock Dust contains essential vitamins and minerals. It is not a manure and takes a long time to break down)
- Water each layer

Source: <http://communitygardenswa.org.au/media/articles/Resources---Resources-To-Download/WLRA-Community-Garden-Manual.pdf>

Shed



- Members of the Garden (including plot holders), receive a key to the locked shed, along with the code for the gate.
 - The Garden has all the necessary items and equipment for anyone to start gardening. The shed is organised with a hand washing facilities, first aid kit, small kitchen, fridge along with tools, gloves, shovels, rakes and wheelbarrows.
 - Keeping the shed tidy and all equipment returned is everyone's responsibilities.
- Broken or missing equipment in the shed should be reported immediately and the Committee will endeavour to relocate or re-purchase as soon as possible.
 - Sunscreen, gloves and other protective equipment are available in the shed. Gardeners are encouraged to bring their own insect repellent, long sleeve shirt and hat when working in the Garden.

Waste management

- The Garden promotes waste minimisation and nutrient cycling strategies, which demonstrates composting techniques that can be used in home gardens or at the Garden composting site.
- There are compost bins and a worm farm located at the Garden. All gardeners are encouraged to use these as a means of reducing kitchen waste (e.g. fruit, vegetables, scraps, egg shells and leftover food).
- The recycling system at the Garden reduces the need to use bins and supports the production of compost and worm castings for the garden plots.
- Do not put meat, fish or chicken into the worm farm or compost bins.
- Gardeners are encouraged to chop or break up any plant matter into smaller pieces for easier composting.
- All waste at the Gardens is to be disposed of appropriately. Recyclable materials (paper, glass, recyclable plastics) are to be placed into the yellow topped bin.
- Aluminium is to be placed in the round garbage bin - to be collected.
- Green waste is to be placed in either the worm farm or compost bin (except weeds and runner grass).

Small items = worm farm

Larger items = compost bin

Weeds = bin

Prunings and small logs go into a stock pile to be mulched



Compost

- Waste plant matter is to go into the larger composting area located near the fence.
- **STEPS**
 1. Add general garden clippings in the bay labelled “add stuff here”
 2. Compost is moved into the middle bay for 2-3 months
 3. End bay is the final stage of composting
- All other general waste including plastic and other non decomposing items are to be placed into the bins. These bins are put out weekly for the Council road side collection.

Please Note: Bin collection at Coodanup is Tuesday mornings

Worm farm

- A worm farm is located at the back of the garden, please cut up scraps and add to the top layer of the bed, add newspaper if needed.
- Alternatively scraps are also kept in the fridge in a labelled container. Feel free to add kitchen scraps and a volunteer will add to the worms later.

Water

- All gardeners are asked to avoid water wastage in the Garden. A reticulation system has been set up for each plot or bed. This system detects rain and goes on both a summer and winter cycle.
- Small soil particles can block the fine drip system of the reticulation. If your plot has recurrent problems with the water please inform a volunteer.
- Hand watering is allowed and is encouraged.

General information

- We expect the Garden to be a safe place for the community, children and other gardeners. Please do not bring anything into the Garden which could compromise the safety and health of others.
- A code is assigned to the front gate. This code is not to be shared out publically.
- Keep the Garden litter free.
- Only use free compost in areas where you are planting not over the entire bed.
- Please access the plots via the paths, keep paths clear of obstructions or trip hazards. Place large branches away from the walkways.
- When watering ensure the hose does not damage other plants. Return the hose to its original position.
- Do not plant vines or climbers on the boundary fencing. Consider others when using fencing, stakes or high climbing plants. Plant tall plants in the centre of the plot keeping in mind not to shade out neighbouring plots.
- Break up food or organic scrapes into smaller pieces before placing the items into the worm farm (or fridge). More information and advice for worm farm is available.
- To keep rodents and other visitors out of the Garden please keep the tea, coffee and food preparation area clean and tidy.
- Pull out weeds rather than using a herbicide. Do not spray any herbicide on a windy day or in large sections of the plot. Couch grass is an ongoing problem and this is controlled on a regular basis.
- Gardeners and visitors should respect the Gardens as a community space.
- Children under 16 years of age are to be supervised or accompanied by parents, relatives or care givers at the Garden.
- Removal of equipment from the Garden is not permitted.
- Consumption of alcohol is not encouraged. Smoking is not permitted at the Gardens.

Gardening- What to plant

| All year round | Cool to Cold weather | Warm to Hot Weather |
|----------------|---|--|
| | April – October (approx) | December – March (approx) |
| Beetroot | Broad Beans | Beans (other than broad beans) |
| Cabbage | Broccoli | Capsicum |
| Carrots | Brussel Sprouts (love a frost) | Corn |
| Chillis | Cauliflower | Cucumber |
| Lettuce | Celery | Eggplant |
| Radish | Herbs: oregano, thymes, bergamot, comfrey, lemon balm, curry leaf tree, Vietnamese mint, chocolate mint, mints, golden oregano, cardamom, borage, edible cannas, orris root (for preserving pot pourri) | Peas Pumpkin |
| Rhubarb | Flowers: Sunflowers, calendulas, marigolds | Rockmelon |
| Spinach | Leek Onions Parsley Shallots Silverbeet | Parsnip Potatoes Turnip Spinach Swede |
| | | Spinach (climbing) Squash Tomatoes Watermelon Zucchini |

Autumn garden tasks:

- Dig in well matured compost.
- Check the soil for alkalinity/acidity and adjust according to soil testing kit recommendations.
- Plant cool weather crops such as broccoli, broad beans, cabbage, carrots, silverbeet, asian greens, also lettuce, peas, parsley, and in late March, potatoes, leeks, spinach, kohlrabi, daikon, cauliflower, swede, turnip.
- Plant garlic. Autumn sown garlic is harvested in Dec.

For the home, non-veggie garden,

- Check roses for black spot.
- Cut shasta daisies & kangaroo paw stems to ground. Prune summer flowering salvias, buddleias, geraniums & gardenias by 1/2. Divide daylilies, kangaroo paws, agapanthus and other clumping plants.
- Feed all shrubs and citrus with organic fertilizer of your choice.
- Put spring bulbs needing that elusive chill factor in egg cartons in crisper of the fridge now for 4-6 weeks ie daffodils, tulips, dutch iris, hyacinths.

- Plant any shrubs and trees which don't hail from tropical regions.
- Plant bulbs you put in the fridge. Early May is the latest month to plant.

Summer garden tasks:

- Top up mulch on your veggie patches, herb gardens and ornamental beds. Choose sustainable, low environmental impact mulch, one that will enrich your soil as it breaks down.
- Sow, grow and have a go in November with warm weather loving favourites such as: capsicum, chilli, cucumber, squash, tomatoes, sweet corn, eggplant, lettuce, zucchini, rocket and squash.
- For herbs, try basil (both sweet and purple), parsley, sage, pyrethrum, lemongrass, oregano, rue and marjoram. Plant mint in a medium to large sized pot, just to prevent mint invasion.

Try flowering variety, such as:

- Nasturtium, dianthus, gerbera, verbena, snapdragons, petunias, shasta daisies, marigolds, phlox and celosia. These are great at attracting pollinators and beneficial insects to your garden.
- Consider a green manure crop to add to your garden plot. At this time of year, try cow pea, mung bean, soy bean and millet. This will improve your soil.
- On non-gardening days, why not head out to the shed and construct a couple of shade cloth tents. They don't have to be elaborate, just a simple, moveable structure that you can pop over the top of some of the sun sensitive veggies (like eggplant, capsicum, tomato and others) as the heat becomes more intense. Think of it as slip, slop, slap for plants!
- Have a good look at your grafted fruit trees throughout November, and, if there are any shoots appearing below the graft, it's best to remove these at once! Your tree will thank you for it!
- Weeding is an awesome job to do at this time of year. Cut down the competition between your tasty treats and these space invaders, and tidy up your patch. It may sound tedious, but it's incredibly rewarding!

This information has been sourced from the West Leederville Residents Association Inc, West Leederville Community Garden, *Your Garden Participation Pack 2010*.

Practicing water wise

- The Garden plots are reticulated via a drip system and using a rain water sensor. Plots can also be hand watered. Water close to the plant as possible, water less often, slowly and deeply.
- A wicking bed is located at the garden which demonstrated the use of this process where water is fed into the bottom of the bed allowing water to draw up to the plant's roots.

- Mixing potting mix with additional water saving soil additions is a key to retaining moisture into the ground.
- These additions include coco peat (coconut fibre), clay or organic compounds.
- Soil additions change the texture of the soil to better hold water and nutrients.
- Products such as Bentonite Clay, Zeolite and Compost are the most important for Perth's sandy soils and will treat problems such as dryness, water repellence and nutrient deficiency.

Pest management

| Pest & Disease control for Mandurah Community Gardens Inc | | |
|---|--|--|
| Product | Constituents | Pests |
| Mechanical control | Physical - Hand | Pick off snails, slugs and caterpillars and dispose of them. |
| Richgro Beat - a -Bug | Garlic/Chilli/Pyrethrins | Ants, Aphids (Rose Cabbage & others), Cabbage Moth, Caterpillars, Earwigs, White Fly, Thrip, Leafhopper & others |
| Yates Scale Gun | Petroleum Oil, Pyrethrins | Aphids, Caterpillars, Leafhoppers, Mealy Bug, Thrips, Whitefly, Mites, Ants, Sooty Mould |
| Yates - Pyrethrum Insect Gun | Pyrethrin | Aphids, Thrips, Caterpillars (including Cabbage moth), Ants, Flies, Earwigs, Whitefly, Leafhoppers & others. |
| Yates - Dipel | Bacillus thuringiensis Soil bacteria | Cabbage Moth, Caterpillars, Loopers, Light Brown Apple Moth |
| Yates - Natrasoap Gun - Insect & Mite killer with no withholding period | Potassium Salts of fatty acids, biodegradable & non residual | Aphids, Mites, Thrips & Mealy Bugs |
| Yates - Success | Spinosad (from Soil Bacteria) | Caterpillars, Thrips, Tomato Leaf Miner |

Note 1) The above mentioned products should be used more or less as a last resort as we do not want to kill beneficial insects and soil organisms.

Note 2) Keep planting areas as weed free as possible.

Note 3) Scout monitor your Bed - Regularly check your garden bed for egg & pest populations behind leaves and in soil debris. Pests are best controlled when there are just a few before they increase in number. Keep your bed free from weeds where some pests pupate.

Note 4) If your plants or produce are showing signs and symptoms of a Pathogen (disease). Cut off and dispose of infected plant parts.

Fruit Flies - In a plastic milk bottle combine vegemite, sugar and a small amount of hot water to dissolve. Put the lid on it and poke a small hole in the bottle (traps the Fly).

Fruit Fly control: Keep areas cultivated around trees and keep areas weed free.

Sanitation: Infested fruit must be destroyed by law. This can be done in the following ways:

- 1) Boiling for at least 10 minutes
- 2) Burning
- 3) Securing Fruit inside a plastic garbage bag and exposing the bag to the sun for a few days.
- 4) Treating infected fruit with an insecticide approved by the Garden prior to burying.

Note: Remember that we are an organic garden. We aim to keep our produce safe for food consumption.