

OCEAN GROVE COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWSLETTER

APR - MAY 2025



April in the Garden

GARDEN JOBS

- Clean out remaining zucchinis, cucumbers & tomatoes that have finished fruiting
- Prepare beds for the next crop by cleaning out the weeds, adding manure/compost & water well
- **FYI** - broad beans have nitrogen-fixing powers & are therefore very helpful for replenishing soil where summer tomatoes have grown & to prepare the soil for next season's tommies!

SEEDS TO PLANT

Asian greens, broad beans, broccoli, carrots, endive, lettuce, kale, parsnip, peas, radishes, silverbeet, spinach, spring onions, watercress, chervil, coriander, parsley

SEEDLINGS TO PLANT

Asian greens, broccoli, garlic, globe artichokes, kale, lettuce, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onions, coriander, parsley

PESKY PESTS

- Aphids & caterpillars can be a problem through autumn. Pick off caterpillars when spotted & apply a soapy spray to leaves to control aphids
- Watch out for weeds, including deadly nightshade as the berries are very poisonous. Please pull these weeds out & put them in the green bin if they have berries on them



May in the Garden

GARDEN JOBS

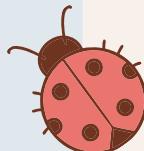
- Remove old pumpkin plants & rejuvenate soil by adding organic fertiliser, compost & mulch
- Give citrus trees a healthy feed of manure & compost
- Install supports for peas & stake broad beans
- Move mint and other herbs that are in pots to a warmer position for the winter months
- After we get some decent rain, fertilise the new native plants with slow release fertiliser & mulch them well

SEEDS TO PLANT

Asian greens, broad beans, broccoli, carrots, endive, kale, lettuce, parsnip, peas, rocket, spring onions, watercress, borage, chervil, coriander, parsley

SEEDLINGS TO PLANT

Asian greens, broccoli, garlic, kale, lettuce, onions, rocket, silverbeet, spinach, spring onions, coriander, parsley



PESKY PESTS

- A warm autumn will delight aphids - give them a unwelcoming hose off affected plants
- If your pak choy & broccoli became caterpillar food, it is not too late to plant some more

MORE OF VIV'S GARDEN TIPS
AVAILABLE ON THE OGCG WEBSITE

Compost Tumblers 101

The compost tumblers are easy to use - but to work well and produce great compost here are some top tips:

- There are 2 compartments - fill the side with the '+' on the sliding door. Leave the side with the '-' to compost
- Chop your green waste up into small bits and don't add woody stems
- Every time you add something, turn the barrel a couple of times
- Remember that egg shells need to be fully dried out and ground before adding to compost

When the compost on the '-' side is ready, it can be emptied out.

Then swap the doors over to leave the other side to brew! For more info check the OGCG Website!

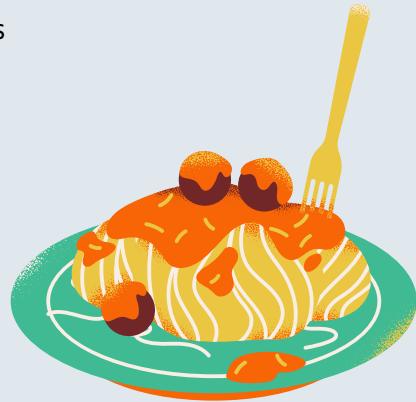


Passata Please

Lucky enough to have some lingering tomato and basil crops? Cook up some passata to freeze for cosy winter nights!

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup of oil
- butter knob
- bunch of basil
- finely chopped onion
- pureed tommies from your garden or good quality canned crushed tomato
- brown sugar
- salt
- shot of vodka OR a little bit of coffee grinds



METHODS

1. heat pot with oil and butter just before burning point
2. thrown in basil (keep your face away!)
3. add onion
4. sweat it right down
5. add tomato
6. cook down on a low heat
7. add sugar and salt to taste
8. add vodka or coffee

Serving Suggestion: Cook up a big spag bol, pour a glass of vino and settle back to watch Big Night

Tomato Potato Psyllid Detection

Tomato potato psyllid (TPP) was found in Vic in Nov 2024. All detections have been found within a 3 km zone near Portarlington.

To stop the spread of TPP any further, a restricted area has been established under the Plant Biosecurity Act 2010, which extends 5 km from all detections. The movement of host material from the restricted area is prohibited.

The tomato potato psyllid (*Bactericera cockerelli*) is a tiny sap-sucking insect that attacks a range of plants in the Solanaceae family, which includes potato, tomato, eggplant, capsicum, chilli and tamarillo. It also attacks sweet potato.

When TPP is present in a crop, noticeable signs include:

- insects jumping from the foliage when disturbed
- plants may wilt severely when heavily infested
- leaves may show yellowing along the edges & upward curling
- sugar-like granules can coat leaves and stems, leading to the development of sooty mould.

For more info visit <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au>

Upcoming

APRIL

8th

Midweek Working Bee (10-12pm)

19th

Bellarine Farmer's Market

27th

Weekend Working Bee (10-12pm)

MAY

13th

Midweek Working Bee (10am-12pm)

17th

Bellarine Farmer's Market

25th

Weekend Working Bee (10am - 12pm)

Wanted!

Looking for a volunteer to take over the newsletter in August! It can be a bi-monthly or quarterly newsletter - keep this format or change it to one of your choice, you're the boss! Get in touch at ogcommunitygarden@gmail.com if you're keen.

