



GROWING NATURALLY



Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens Association Incorporated

April 2021

IN THIS EDITION

Page 1

What has been Happening at The Gardens

Page 2

Instagram

The Organic Cycle

Page 3

Autumn / Winter Planting Season

What to Plant in April

Page 4

Making Great Soils Workshop—Brian Sams

Share the Produce

Quick Notes for Your Calendar

Page 5

Recipe of the Month

What to do with Fruit Fly Stung Citrus...

Make Marmalade

Facebook [Link](#)

Past Newsletters [Link](#)

Website [Link](#)

What Has Been Happening at The Gardens

Another busy month has passed by. The rain has been most welcome, although it has prevented us from getting into the gardens over the last week or so. I think it has been so long since we have seen such heavy and constant rain, we have all forgotten what it is like.

We had a great social get together on Sunday March 14. Members cooked and shared their pre-made pizzas and roast jacket potatoes. There was great fun and conversation had by all. I encourage all of you to come along to some of the TCOGA social get-togethers offered, as it is a great way to get to know other members.

The overwhelming member response to the Draft Plan for the gardens has been very positive. Feedback has been gathered during morning tea at the social gardening sessions and will be passed on to The Council when we meet to discuss our response to the Draft Plan after the Easter break. If you have any further feedback to contribute, please come along to our morning teas to share your ideas and suggestions about the Draft Plan.

Emilio is continuing to look after the Social Media side of the TCOGA. Our Facebook page continues to create interest from the wider community. Emilio will also be working with some students from the University of Southern Queensland to improve and update our webpage. A big thank you to Michael Lane, (a TCOGA member), and USQ who have kindly agreed to help us with this venture. Emilio has also established an Instagram account for the gardens which we are hopeful will extend our reach within the wider Toowoomba community.

We have also managed to get Brian Sams, from Wattletree Horticulture, to come along and conduct a workshop with us on Saturday 8 May from 2pm to 4pm at the gardens. Brian is a very experienced and well-known horticulturist in Toowoomba. He will be talking to us about 'Making Great Soils'. Soil health is crucial for gardening success. So please lock this into your diaries. We will offer the workshop free to all TCOGA members. Friends and family are most welcome, but there will be a \$10 fee for non-members to help cover the cost of the workshop.

As I write this article, I am hoping that I will see many of you at our next working bee at the gardens on Sunday March 28. Remember that any time you can volunteer is most welcome and appreciated.

Hope to see you in the gardens soon.

W e n d y
Snigg

President
TCOGA



TOOWOOMBA
community
ORGANIC GARDENS





Follow us on Instagram

The **Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens Association** is now on Instagram!

Follow us to stay up-to-date with all things happening in the organic gardens.

Be our friends and follow us today **@tcogainc**

Want to share a photo with us?

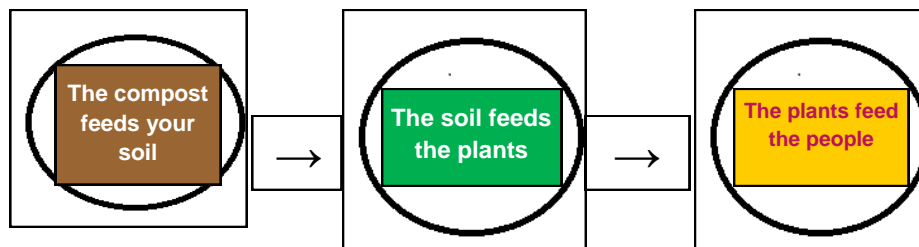
Add the hashtags **#TCOGA #tcoga**; or tag us in your post.

See you on Instagram!

<https://www.instagram.com/tcogainc/>

The Organic Cycle

There is a *carbon cycle* and a *water cycle* and now we have an **organic cycle for your soil**.



We can add to this cycle that the plants make the compost and the plants provide the seeds for next year's plants. Of course, into this mix goes sunlight and water.

We keep our soil healthy by supplying it with nutrients and ensuring it is a good place for microorganisms to live. To prepare your soil for planting you first need to dig over the top soil to promote good root growth, allowing the plants to access water and nutrients deep in the soil. It is important, however, not to mix the top soil with the subsoil.

Now add the compost which you can make using kitchen and garden scraps in a composting bin, *or* buy an organic compost from the hardware shop, *or* use your worm castings from your worm farm, *or* buy chicken or horse or cow or sheep manure.

Again, mix the compost into your top soil and water it in well. Compost releases nutrients to the plants slowly over time. It also helps to build soil structure.

To reduce weed growth, plant your seeds or seedlings close so that the mature plants will touch and leave no bare earth. Remember to plant some flowers between your vegetable seedlings as the flowers will entice butterflies and other beneficial insects into your garden.

And do not forget to crop rotate. Different plants use up different nutrients: beans add nitrogen to the soil and sweet corn needs nitrogen to grow.

Look after your soil and your soil will look after you.

-Linda

AUTUMN / WINTER PLANTING SEASON

Now is the time to be planting your Autumn and Winter seedlings. The wonderful rain we have just had is perfect timing; hopefully, you have added compost and manure to your garden and dug it all in, if not then do so immediately to take advantage of the moist soil.

I have a selection of seasonal vegetable seedlings available now, with more to come. The price per punnet has had to increase to \$3 due to the rising cost of seedling potting mix. [Only the best quality is used! Ed.]

All the root vegetables that can go in now are best planted by seed directly into the garden.



For peas it is best to soak the seed for a couple of hours, or overnight in water, before planting to give them a head start.

Broad beans can also be planted now. I had planted some seed in the community garden as well as my garden just before the rain, and I was amazed that they were up within days. Conditions were simply perfect.


It would be wise to leave the planting of Garlic for another week or two, I have found from past experience that they can be inclined to rot if the soil is still quite warm and wet.



The unfortunate effect of all the wonderful rain is that the grass and weeds have exploded in growth. All plot holders are reminded that they are responsible for keeping the grass and weeds cleared in the paths around their plots and also to do their two hours per month working in Community areas of the Gardens. If everyone does their bit, the Gardens will be looking great and save the workload falling to just the few dedicated members.

We have a wonderful garden space, so let us all work together to keep it looking great while sharing enjoyable time with other gardeners.

- Jeanette

Herbs	What to Plant in April		Vegetables	Cauliflower
Alfalfa/Lucerne	Dandelion	Artichoke	Brussels Sprouts	
Angelica	Dill	Asian Greens	Cabbage	
Anise/Hyssop	Endive	Nasturtium	Carrots	
Borage	Evening Primrose	Oregano	Cauliflower	
Buckwheat	Fennel	Parsley	Celeriac	
Calendula	Fenugreek	Salad Burnett	Celery	
Catnip	Feverfew	Salad Rocket	Chickpea	
Camomile	Linseed	Sage	Daikon	
Chervil	Lupin	Thyme	Garlic	
Chickory	Marjoram	Vetch	Kale	
Coriander	Mustard	Watercress	Kohl Rabi	
			Leeks	
			Radish	
			Lettuce	
			Rhubarb	
			Salsify	
			Shallots	
			Silverbeet	
			Spinach	
			Spring Onion	
			Swedes	
			Turnip	



Buckwheat



MAKING GREAT SOILS WORKSHOP

Saturday 8 May

22A Goggs Street, Toowoomba

2pm – 4pm

COST – FREE for TCOGA Members

\$10.00 to non-members



With Brian Sams from Wattletree Horticultural

“Brian is a well-qualified and experienced horticulturist having worked in the industry for over 39 years in various positions starting in the nursery industry, teaching horticulture, consultation and garden tourism.”

Brian Sams is on WIN TV Darling Downs each Tuesday night from 6 pm for local gardening advice and some interesting ideas!

<https://www.wattletreehorticulture.com.au>

Please Remember to Share the Produce from the Community Garden

We have been blessed with some lovely crops of cucumbers, figs, pomegranates and more over the last 4 to 6 weeks. TCOGA members are most welcome to take some for their own use.

Please remember to take only what you need and leave some for others to share. It has been a little disappointing for the regular TCOGA members who turn up to work in the community gardens every Wednesday and / or Sunday to discover that all the produce has been harvested from the trees and bushes.

Quick Notes for Your Calendar

TCOGA Meeting at The Gardens—Saturday 3 April at 10.00am

17 & 18 April—Showcasing Pittsworth & Surrounds

gardensofthedowns.com

Saturday & Sunday 17 & 18 April—Wondai Autumn Garden Expo

Wondai Sportsground & Lions Pavilion, Bunya Highway, Wondai

wondaigardenexpo.com

15 & 16 May 2021—Pine Rivers Garden and Plant Fair—Pine Rivers Show Ring,

757 Gympie Road, Lawnton

pineriversgardenandplantfair.com.au

9—11 July 2021—Queensland Garden Expo— Nambour

www.qldgardenexpo.com.au

25 & 26 September—Grow Expo—Gatton Showgrounds

www.growexpo.com.au/

What to do When Fruit Fly Have Stung Your Citrus

When you were too late putting out your fruit fly baits, or covering your citrus and the fruit flies have got their stings into your crop, don't despair, you can still save the fruit. If you harvest the stung fruit as it starts to show patches where it has been stung, you can turn it into delicious marmalade.



Make Marmalade

Just cut up the oranges finely, cutting out any damaged parts.

If you have four to six oranges, or even a few more, put them into a pot or bowl with six cups of water and leave to soak for 24 hours.

After the 24 hours simmer the oranges for an hour, then leave to stand for another 24 hours.

Next day add 1.8kg of sugar and boil the mixture until it sets, about one hour. Test it on a cold saucer to see



whether it sets, by putting the saucer first into the fridge or freezer.

Once the marmalade sets, turn off the stove and leave it to cool a little before bottling in hot sterilized jars that have been washed and placed upside down in the oven at 100 degrees C to dry. If bottled too hot the fruit may rise rather than being evenly distributed through the jar. Put the lids on while still hot.

Label and store in your pantry for later use, or to give as gifts to family and friends.



Toowoomba Mower
Centre
Supplying & Servicing



Toowoomba Mower
Centre
Supplying & Servicing

2020—2021 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Wendy Snigg

SECRETARY: Jeanette Walton—tcoga.secretary@gmail.com

TREASURER: Kate Eglitis —tcoga.treasurer@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Joanne McClelland, Emilio Anteliz and Helen Dunne

Newsletter Editor: Carlene Gardiner—tcoga.newsletter@gmail.com

Newsletter of Toowoomba
Community Organic Gardens
Association Inc.

22A Goggs Street

TOOWOOMBA CITY QLD 4350

tcoga.newsletter@gmail.com

Past Newsletters [Link](#)

<https://tcogardens.wordpress.com/newsletters/>