



GROWING NATURALLY



Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens Association Incorporated

December 2019

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SOCIAL GARDENING

Wednesdays 8.30-11.00am

Come along and join in the
fun!

Sundays 8.30-11.00am

All Members & Visitors
Welcome



President's Update

Thanks to all our Volunteers and Best Wishes for Christmas



2019 has been a very positive and productive year at the Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens despite the drought and the very difficult growing conditions. I would like to thank the Management Committee and all our Members for their great work at the gardens during 2019. I have really appreciated the increased number of members committed to regular voluntary work in the gardens during 2019. The dry weather has allowed us to focus more on much needed maintenance and clean-up work. My thanks go to the group of new members who have worked diligently to clear, weed, mulch and improve the Permaculture Garden. Work continues on clearing weeds along the southern fence line of the Members Garden. We are hoping that the new tank installation will be completed by Christmas, ready to collect water from summer rain hopefully falling in January and February. Thanks to Ken and Joanne for your long term work on the Tank Project.

Last Wednesday we bid farewell to the Clifford Park Students, many of whom are Graduating this Wednesday evening. Col presented all of the students with Certificates at our morning tea. Thanks to Col for his great teaching of these students during 2019 and thanks to Mike and Linda for the photos and for the production of the lovely personalised certificates.

Reminder All members are invited to our **Christmas Lunch** to be held in the Pergola at the Gardens on Sunday December 15 commencing at 12.00 noon. Please bring your own drinks and a plate of food to share. We look forward to seeing you at The Gardens on December 15.

The first big event for TCOGA in 2020 will be the Bunnings Toowoomba North Sausage Sizzle to be held on Australia Day, 26 January 2020. We are again asking members to volunteer to staff the BBQ on this day. Wendy will again develop a volunteer roster. Due to the Christmas Break, volunteers are asked to see Wendy to put names on the roster over the next three weeks, prior to our break-up lunch on December 15. If you can help at the BBQ but can't contact Wendy please let Mike or Andrew know that you can help.

I would like to wish all members of TCOGA a Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2020.
- From Andrew Hawke (TCOGA President)

Christmas Lunch Celebration

On Sunday 15 December you are invited to a casual lunch under the pergola at the gardens. No pizza or BBQ - it will probably be hot. You can make sure gardens, plots, and trees are just right while you are there in the morning.

We will extend morning tea into lunch - bring what you fancy - anything to create a flavour of Xmas. You can share, swap, or be creative.

The 1,2,3 of Fruit Fly Prevention

In the orchard the little apricot tree produced some very tasty fruit but sadly much of it was stung by fruit fly. Upon some research, I have learnt some very interesting facts about Fruit Flies:



They have four cycles in a lifetime

Egg—which is laid in the fruit

Larvae—eggs hatch into larvae and munch inside the fruit, (they look like maggots)

Pupae—fruit fly mature in the soil where the stung fruit has fallen

Adults—emerge from the soil and the cycle repeats

The female needs to feed on protein to be able to produce eggs. To get this protein the female feeds on animal droppings, bacteria in the garden and the juice in the fruit.

The female can lay up to several hundred eggs.

The fruit fly can live for many weeks.

In their search for food they can travel several kilometres in a lifetime.

The pupae need soil warmth to mature, so in summer they can be quite prolific.

Signs to look for- punctured fruit, maggoty fruit, small yellow and black flying insects. Check Google for pictures.



Control

There are a few organic methods of control

EXCLUSION - netting the whole fruit tree with special fruit fly netting.

Advantage - organic

Disadvantage—expensive, time consuming, if the net has a hole the fruit fly will get in, stops other pollinating insects.

BAGGING - using waxed paper bags/mesh bags to cover each piece of fruit.

Advantage - organic, cheap

Disadvantage - time consuming, if not tied properly blows away in the wind.

REMOVAL OF THE FALLEN FRUIT - place all of the fallen/stung/damaged fruit into a black plastic bag and leave in the sun to cook. This will kill the larvae.

SPRAYING - some of the sprays I looked at were not organic.

Disadvantages - harming the good bugs, withholding period for the fruit, much of it could be wasted, has to be re-sprayed after rain.

TRAPS - These are designed for the fruit fly to enter the bottle. It can either drown in the solution or die from the insecticide solution.

Advantages- reusable and can monitor the insect kill in the bottle.

Disadvantage - expensive

There is a great variety of solutions on the shelf at the hardware store. I looked only at the organic ones.

WILD MAYS - is a pheromone. It will attract the male. The solution can only be put into a trap. Friends have used this and they reckon it works. Maybe two traps to a small yard.

ECO NATURE LURE – Insecticide attracts both the male and female. Can be put into a trap or it can be sprayed.

At the Garden we will trial the use of Eco-Naturelure. The traps can be expensive as you need lots of them. Jeanette has come up with a solution and we can make our own traps. The traps should be placed 1-1.5 metres apart and 1.5-2 metres from the ground. It does take 3-5 days to kill the fruit fly.

Please don't rely on just one method of control but use as many as possible so that you get the fruit and not the fruit fly.

Some handy, interesting and easy to read information can be found on:

ABC iview for past episodes of Gardening Australia about fruit fly.

Eco Organics - The makers of the Eco Naturelure product have a very good website, ecoorganicgarden.com.au



Giving Back to Our Community

During the past two years Col has worked each Wednesday morning with a group of keen students and their Teachers, from the Clifford Park Special School as they have learned and gained practical skills in gardening.

This Certificate of Appreciation was received from the school in acknowledgement of the contribution that Col and The Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens have made to the betterment of the skills of their students.

We wish the graduating students well in their future endeavours and trust that they will put their gardening knowledge to good use as they go forward in life.

Empty Bottle Lid Donations

We are collecting plastic bottle tops for the Clifford Park Special School! Bring them to the Gardens and add them to the bag.



What to Plant in December

Herbs

Alfalfa
Amaranth
Basil
Borage
Burdock
Caraway
Chives
Echinacea
French Tarragon
Lemon Balm
Marigold
Marjoram
Oregano

Parsley
Purslane
Sage
Purslane
Sunflower
Thyme



Garden Abundance in a drought

Beans—Climbing,
Dwarf & Snake
Beetroot
Broccoli Seedlings
Cabbage Seedlings
Cape Gooseberry
Capsicum
Carrots
Celery
Celeriac
Chilli Peppers
Choko
Cucumber
Lettuce
Eggplant

Vegetables

Kohl Rabi
Leek Seedlings
Marrow
Mustard Greens
Okra
Pumpkin
Radish
Rockmelon
Rosella
Silverbeet
Squash
Sweetcorn
Tomatillo Seedlings
Tomato
Turnip



Eggplant

Watermelon
Zucchini



Artichoke Flowers

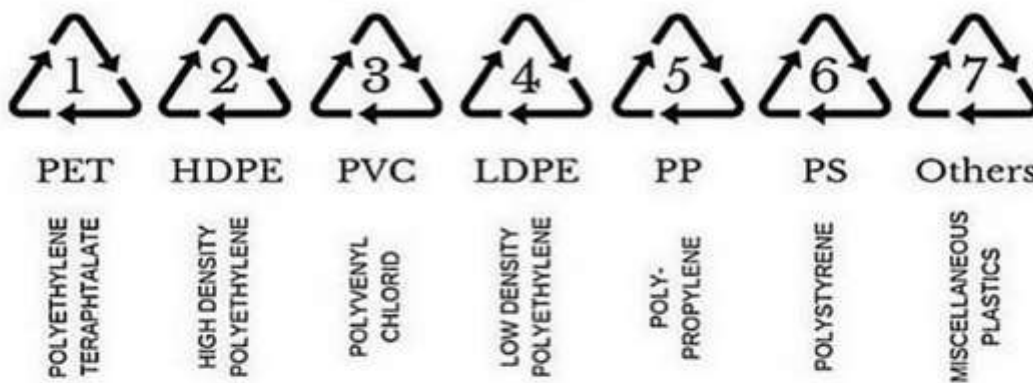
Plastic Recycling and Some Ideas About How to Reduce its Consumption

Plastics in all their forms are present in our daily lives, from basic utensils to high-tech devices. The development of the petrochemical industry brought new materials, mass production, cheap prices and thence a wide range of waste not possible to be degraded by the environment. While researchers around the world work to create new biodegradable materials, both producers and consumers must include recycling practices in our daily lives, reduce the use of plastics and reuse them as raw materials in industrial production.

In 1988, the triangular recycling symbols relating to plastics were introduced in the United States, and in Australia in 1990. According to Chemistry Australia, "The simple, effective '1 to 7' numbering system identifies the resin composition of plastic containers (and other items intended for recycling)." Each day

more plastics are being recycled. As an example, for the first time the sleepers at Richmond Train Station in Victoria were made from recycled plastic with a mix of polystyrene and agricultural plastic waste, including cotton bale wrap, vineyard covers and pipes from the mining industry, which was previously unable to be recycled and sent to landfill.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS REALLY MEAN



EASE OF RECYCLING



PRODUCTS MADE FROM THIS MATERIAL



Turtelly Clean.

The environmental conservation organisation "Turtelly Clean" recommends nine ways to fight plastic pollution:

1. Refuse single use plastic products
2. Opt for reusable materials
3. Support bans of single use plastic
4. Spread the message to the world
5. Participate in beach and river clean-ups
6. Recycle properly through sorting waste
7. Pick up trash from your way
8. Educate family and friends regularly
9. Avoid microbeads in cosmetic products

The topics described here about recycling are for information purposes. Please check with your regional council and/or environmental organisations about the official information, and what is available in your locality. However, in the meantime it is our responsibility to keep our environment clean for the future generations.

- Emilio Anteliz

New Classes of Membership

The Office Fair Trading - QLD has advised that our application to modify our version of the constitution, or Association Rules, required a special resolution. At our recent AGM that was passed by 100% of the members attending the AGM. The change is to allow us to have classes of membership that enable us to manage members, or visitors, who have special needs.

The new classes are:

Social membership for members who are unable to, or not desirous of taking an active role in the gardens.

Carer membership for family or guardians of Ordinary members who will benefit from support.

Associate membership for professionals who provide care for Ordinary members, or clients of service providers.

Social membership costs the same as Ordinary membership but does not require attendance at induction training. It does not allow garden work or provide insurance cover for accidents doing such work. This is for people who want the social benefits of membership without some of the obligations.

Carer membership will allow an adult to assist their child or dependent who would otherwise be too young or incapacitated to fully participate as an Ordinary member. The dependent pays for their Ordinary membership and participates with their carer's presence and support as any other Ordinary member would. This includes doing voluntary work or plot hire and satisfying their obligations such as induction training. The Carer membership is free but Carer members should only participate with or through their dependent.

Associate membership allows most of the privileges and all obligations of an Ordinary member. Associate membership allows provision of care to clients of service providers who have an agreement with our association. The Associate member is required to ensure their Service Provider's clients are fully informed and compliant with all rules, instructions and behaviours are compatible with other members.

We expect to negotiate an agreement with Service Providers that recognises the obligations they will retain for the actions of their care staff and clients. They will also maintain insurance, records, logs, and processes so any charges they incur through the agreement will be paid. In the event of their clients or employees failing to meet expectations they will address these in accord with our processes and ultimately may not be permitted to attend the gardens.

Mike Knight, Secretary

Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens Association Inc.
22a Goggs Street, Toowoomba City Qld 4350

Quick Notes for Your Calendar

Sunday 15 December @ 12 Noon—TCOGA Christmas Lunch at The Gardens

Under The Pergola

Bring some food to share with your fellow gardeners

17-19 January—Ginger Flower & Food Festival

gingerfactory.com.au/ginger-flower-food-festival/

Sunday 26 January—TCOGA Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser
Bunnings North, Ruthven Street.

28 February to 8 March 2020—Stanthorpe Apple & Grape Harvest Festival

<http://www.appleandgrape.org/>



Cornflowers in Bloom

Carrot Plum Pudding



If you want to try a new and moist pudding for Christmas, this is one that is very easy to make and has a lovely flavour and texture. Happy Christmas baking!

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 1/2 tsp mixed spice
- Pinch salt
- 1 large or 2 medium carrots finely grated (approx 1 cup)
- 1 1/2 cups currants
- 1 1/2 Tbsp butter
- 1 1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 1/8 cups milk

Method

1. Warm the milk, then dissolve the butter and bicarbonate of soda in it.
2. Put dry ingredients (except bicarbonate of soda) into mixing bowl.



3. Add fruit and grated carrots, then the dissolved butter and bicarbonate of soda in the warmed milk.
4. Put into a greased pudding basin (or stainless steel bowl).
5. Cover with a lid or foil and tie around the rim
6. Steam for 3 hours
7. Serve with custard, cream, brandy sauce or ice cream



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Centre
Supplying & Servicing



Two more productive gardens in a drought

2018—2019 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Andrew Hawke

VICE PRESIDENT: Wendy Snigg

SECRETARY: Mike Knight—tcoga.secretary@gmail.com

TREASURER: Linda Mangubhai —tcoga.treasurer@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Joanne McClelland, Chris Walpole, Jeanette Walton

Coordinating Volunteers

Garden Plot Coordinator: Joanne McClelland

New Member Coordinator: Joanne McClelland

Grants Coordinator: Linda Mangubhai

Communications & Marketing Coordinator: TBC

Newsletter Editor: Carlene Gardiner

Project Coordinators: Andrew Hawke & Jeanette Walton

Newsletter of Toowoomba
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