



GROWING NATURALLY



Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens Association Incorporated

February 2020

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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



Welcome to 2020 in The Gardens

We trust that you all had a happy and relaxing festive period and are keen to get back into the garden for 2020. As we mentioned last year in our newsletters there have been some changes to some of the practices and procedures in the gardens.

As an incorporated body we have to comply with various rules and regulations as well as our agreement with the Toowoomba Regional Council. One of the main changes for members in 2020 is the **requirement for all members to participate in a brief 20–30 minute Induction Presentation. This is a requirement of the Toowoomba Regional Council and State Government Incorporation Laws to ensure our insurance obligations are met.** Information will be forthcoming about possible times to attend a session.

The Committee will organise more social activities this year. We encourage all to participate in these, as it is a great way to get to know your fellow gardeners. It is important to keep up to date with what is happening in the gardens by:

Keeping your membership contact details up to date

Reading your TCOGA emails

Checking out the TCOGA'S Facebook page

Checking out our website: TCOGardens.wordpress.com

Staying for morning tea when you visit the gardens

Membership Renewal fees need to be paid by the end of February 2020. If you have decided **NOT** to renew your membership please email one of the following Committee members as soon as possible so they can make sure the club's records are kept up to date and you don't get bombarded with unwanted emails.

Looking forward to catching up with you in the gardens.

TCOGA Committee

Mike Knight: TCOGA.Secretary@gmail.com

Andrew Hawke: tcoga.president@gmail.com

Wendy Snigg: tcoga.vicepresident@gmail.com



Mulching – A Crucial Sustainable Gardening Practice

Whilst the recent rains have been most welcome and we all dearly hope they will continue, we are all going to have to get used to gardening in a dryer climate. Water-wise gardening techniques and practices will become central to gardening success. Some members have decided to put off planting until things improve but regardless of whether you have planted or not, gardens still need to be regularly maintained.

Those with their own garden plots need to ensure that they are regularly weeded and mulched. The paths around your garden also need to be attended to. Mulching is a crucial practice in sustainable and water-wise gardening practice. All plot holders need to mulch their plot whether it has been planted or not.

Gardening Australia talked about the benefits of mulch in its latest episode Series 30 Episode 42. Sophie outlined some key points about the benefits of garden mulch

- It can reduce your need to water by 70%
- It reduces weeds that can compete for water, light and space
- It reduces weed-seed germination and makes it easier to pull out weeds
- It slows down rain run-off
- It insulates your soil and adds nutrients



Use this time as a chance to build up your soil by digging in compost and manure to build up your soil so it will be rich and fertile and ready to go when the growing conditions finally improve. - TCOGA Committee

HAVE YOU KEPT YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE?

It is important that your contact information is kept up to date to ensure that you are informed about what is going on at The Garden

Please contact Mike via email at tcoga.secretary@gmail.com with your new contact information.

Membership Time for 2020

Fellow Gardeners, It is that time of year again when membership fees are due. Membership renewal forms have been sent via email (or mail if you have requested this). For those 11 members with special circumstances, your invoice will be available for collection at The Gardens on Wednesday or Sunday mornings before 10am for the next two weeks.

The final due date for payment and return of completed renewal forms is 29 February. Preferred payment is by bank transfer, however, you may deposit in person at the Heritage Bank, or pay by cheque along with your renewal form in an envelope hand delivered or posted to 22a Goggs Street, Toowoomba.

Could you please email to let us know if you are **NOT** going to renew your membership? This will help us with our record keeping and save you receiving unwanted emails. Otherwise, please just follow the instructions and complete your renewal to share another great year! *Thanks for your support, TCOGA Committee*

What to Plant in February

Herbs

Basil
Chives
Coriander
Florence Fennel
Lemongrass
Mint
Oregano
Parsley
Tarragon



Endive

Vegetables

Amaranth
Climbing & Dwarf Beans
Beetroot
Broccoli
Brussels Sprouts
Cabbage
Carrots
Cauliflower

Celery
Collard Greens
Cucumbers
Endive
Kohl Rabi
Leeks
Lettuce
Mustard Greens
Onions

Potato
Radish
Swedes
Salsify
Silverbeet
Tomatoes
Sweet Potato
Spring Onion
Turnip



Amazing Benefits of Pine-Oil

Pine-oil based products, like HB-101, have been providing growers with increased yields, with a greater amount of overall protection (and less crop damage) from pests, contaminations, diseases, etc for quite some time now. There has been a fair amount of research done that shows that not only is Pine-oil (and other saponins) good for keeping things sterile and clean, but also provides a high amount of growth potential to most plants.

Pine-oil is a 100% organic bio-stimulant which possesses a high natural level of nitrogen while also being a major pest and disease deterrent. It is 100% water-soluble and can be used as either a foliar spray or as a root zone applicant (put into a reservoir or used to hand water). Pine-oil based products can be used with organic or mineral-based nutrient programs with no problems.

The professional agricultural and greenhouse industries have reared their large heads at Pine-oil based products, because of their amazing benefits and relative low costs. Since they can be used in a foliar spray regime, the effects can be seen very soon (1-3 days is normal). Plants sprayed with pine-oil will immediately perk up and start reaching for the sky. It is not unusual to hear reports of 1-3 inches of new growth in a day. When spraying with pine-oil products (as directed) there is no risk of “overspray toxicity”. Pine-oil is environmentally friendly, totally safe, and 100% bio-degradable. It can work as a chelator to help macro and micronutrients get taken up into plants cells at a much faster rate, thus speeding up growth rates and shortening the overall growth cycle.

An added bonus of using pine-oil is that it will kill all forms of algae and create a barrier to prevent it from returning. You can spray Rockwool cube tops down with a foliar application and prevent algae from ever forming. Also feel free to routinely spray trays and other surfaces with pine-oil to prevent algae build up.

Although there is a distinct “pine-oil fragrance” upon foliar spraying with pine based products, there will be no noticeable residual effect on harvest flowers or fruits. There will be no aftertaste or smell left over.

Another great benefit from using pine-oil based products is that the occurrence of mould and/or mildew is way lower on fruit/flowers when compared to untreated plants. These products help prevent Botrytis Cinerea (commonly known as Grey Mould) as well as powdery mildew—two very common greenhouse diseases.

Pine-oil based products are also good at creating a healthier root system, only promoting the beneficial aerobic bacteria and fungi colonies to grow and thrive, while helping to thwart any pathogen anaerobic colonies in the process. The pine-oil helps to create stronger roots which in turn provide for stronger plants with more yield. These healthier plants will be less susceptible to attacks from predators and diseases and will be better suited to deal with “stressful” situations and adverse conditions.

Newer studies confirmed that pine-oil based products can effectively eliminate the growth of two of the most common root-zone pathogenic fungal colonies (*Fusarium oxysporum*, *Pythium aphenidermatum*) (Cindy Rea, Pine-ing for Organics, Maximum Yield, Volume 9, Number 4—November, December 2006.)

Because there is available nitrogen in most pine-oil based products they are very effective at boosting vegetative growth. They are great for helping “parent” plants overcome stress and just stay reaching toward the light—happier and more healthy than ever. Pine-oil is systemic and the benefits the parent plant receives are passed down to cuttings (clones) as well. This helps promote a more vigorous rooting and initial growth period.

Researchers with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada food Research Program in Ontario Canada executed numerous studies on the performance of a wide variety of food crops using the liquid organic pine-oil fertilizer. They showed up to an amazing 28.3% increase in yield, depending on the crop. (Zhou, Young & Cao, Agro Green® Liquid Fertilizer Tested on Strawberries.)

Quick Notes for Your Calendar

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

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

**Friday 13 & Saturday 14 March—Brisbane Garden & Plant Expo
Rocklea Showgrounds**

<https://plantexpo.com.au/>



Aussie Bees

Welcome to our new native bee hive (a small white box on a stick) in the Member's Garden.

This community of workers is trying to help us in the garden and a website about them suggests we can help by:

- Select plants that flower right through the year
- Select flowers with a variety of colours and shapes
- Plant a group of each flower species
- Select plants that provide nesting materials for the bees
- Avoid insecticides in your Bee-friendly Garden

Next newsletter we will try to give you more advice on these helpful behaviours for the bees. Please let us know if you notice native bees at work in the gardens.

- Mike Knight



Australian Sugarbag Bee—*Tetragonula Carbonaria*
Is a stingless bee endemic to the north-east coast of Australia. They are also called Bush Bees

More Fun at the Bunnings North Sausage Sizzle on Australia Day!

We are becoming experts at the sausage sizzle! Chefs Jane, Mike, Ken, Wendy, Andrew, and Emilio slaved over the hot barbecue (and it was very hot in that tent) to provide hungry patrons with their favourite snack. The support team of servers and cashiers performed well too to add valuable dollars to our bank account. We will now be able to make more improvements to the Gardens for all our members.

We do hope that our next sausage sizzle in June will be another success and that more members will come along and help in this great social and profitable event.

Thanks to all our 18 helpers for the wonderful effort and to Bunnings for providing this opportunity to our association!



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.



New Rainwater Tank

Our new tank funded by the Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant is now operational, thanks to Warrego Water, and with no small thanks to Ken Shirtcliff who prepared the base and tidied up the plumbing. We can use this water in the permaculture garden and on the orchard.

Is it 'a tank half full or a tank half empty'? The former of course!

At last we have another water tank in place to harvest rain water off the large shelter, and it was installed just in time to catch last week's welcome rain.

Spanish-Style Eggs

Spanish-Style Eggs is fried eggs served on a bed of tomatoes, onions, green capsicums and black olives. Serve for breakfast, lunch or as a hearty and healthy snack. Easy and quick to prepare!

Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 medium-sized onions, sliced and pushed out into rings
- 1 garlic clove, chopped
- 2 small green capsicums, white pith removed, seeded and sliced
- 6 tomatoes, blanched, peeled and sliced
- 4 black olives, stoned
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 4 fried eggs, kept hot

Method

1. In a medium-sized frying-pan, heat the oil over moderate heat.
2. When the oil is hot, add the onions, garlic and green capsicums. Cook stirring frequently, for 5 to 7

minutes or until the onions are soft and translucent but not brown.

3. Add the tomatoes, olives, salt and pepper and cook for a further 5 minutes stirring frequently.
4. Remove the pan from the heat. Turn the mixture into a warmed serving dish and place the eggs on top.
5. Serve at once. *"Supercookery" Cookbook*



Toowoomba Mower Centre Supplying & Servicing	<p>Ph: 4630 2150 Fax: 4630 2600 3 Sowden Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350 robbie@toowoombamowercentre.com.au www.toowoombamowercentre.com.au</p>	Toowoomba Mower Centre Supplying & Servicing
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2019—2020 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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