



# GROWING NATURALLY



Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens Association Incorporated

May 2021

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## What Has Been Happening at The Gardens

Autumn is here and the leaves are changing colour as a new season is upon us. Jeanette led the last working bee which was held on 28 March. A big thank you to Jeanette and all of those members who turned up and actively contributed to the community garden. As previously mentioned, it is amazing how much more can get done and how much more fun can be had when working in a team. The next working bee will be on Sunday 30 May and we hope to see you all there. If you can donate only 30 minutes of your time that is fine and very much appreciated.

We are excited about our upcoming workshop on soil health which will be run by Brian Sams on Saturday 8 May at 2pm. (see notice in newsletter). If this event proves to be successful, we have plans to run a couple more this year. Please bring along your friends. We are paying for this workshop which is why we are charging non-members \$10. Given that one of our key principles for the gardens is soil health, this is an important workshop and I am sure we could all learn a lot and get new ideas from this. There will also be some plants for sale on the day.

Please remember to purchase your seedlings from Jeanette. Jeanette gives up her time to care and look after these and it is also a way for us to raise funds for the gardens. The seedlings she produces are generally tougher than seedlings bought from nurseries, as they have not been quite as protected as the commercially produced ones. If there is something you are looking for please let Jeanette know and she will see if it is a possibility for propagation.

Kate is collecting any bottles/containers which can be cashed in at the containers for change depot. We do find them in the gardens from time to time, but Kate is happy to accept any suitable containers that members donate for this purpose. We are also going to start the Bunnings Sausage Sizzles again to help raise funds for our garden plans. Once we have some dates for this we will let you know and call for volunteers to help on the day.

Recently we planted some garlic in the Members Garden area. If the crop is successful, we will be selling it to raise money for the gardens. The community garden has also been planted up with some exciting veggie crops for our members.

Our next social event is planned for June 20 to celebrate the Winter Solstice. We will fire up the pizza oven and enjoy the wonderful gardens and good company.



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



Hope to see you in the gardens soon.

W e n d y  
Snigg

President  
TCOGA



**TOOWOOMBA**  
*community*  
**ORGANIC GARDENS**

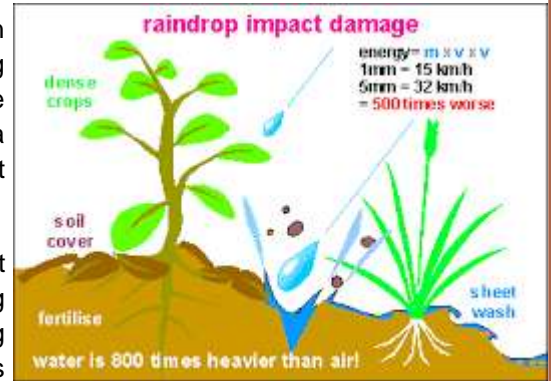
## Mulching: A Wise Way to Build and Maintain Soil Health

**Mulching** is the placement of any organic or inorganic material over the top of a soil surface to protect it. Both types of material discourage weeds, but organic mulches also improve the soil as they decompose.



**Organic mulches** include materials such as chopped leaves, straw, grass clippings, compost, wood chips, shredded bark, sawdust, pine needles, sugar cane mulch and even paper. **Inorganic mulches** are materials like gravel, rocks, rubber and plastic that, as their name suggests will never break down.

Some of the benefits of the organic materials include reduced soil erosion (caused by rainfall or wind), less compaction, moisture conservation stopping excessive evaporation, increased control of soil temperature, disease prevention, improved quality of the soil when it is decomposed and a reduction in weed growth. A garden well-covered with mulch will also make it look good.



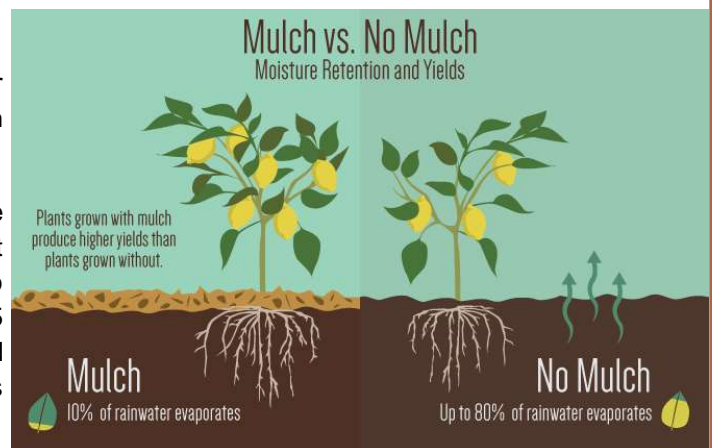
Before mulching, you must remove all the weeds by pulling them out, and for the strong weeds cutting off their heads then apply the mulch. Sugar cane mulch usually remains drier than other mulching materials; however, it is the most recommended way to protect your plants from the damage caused by frost.

In addition to these benefits, a well-mulched garden can produce more vegetables than an unmulched garden owing to its ability to reduce weeds and disease. A larger quantity will also be harvested because there are fewer damaged fruits. In a mulched orchard, the fruits do not touch the ground. This is especially important for growing tomatoes, which rot easily when in contact with the ground.



At the end of the season, once you have harvested your produce, you should mulch your plot. This will allow the mulch to decompose before you replant your plot for the next season.

Calculate how much mulch to buy. There's nothing more frustrating than choosing the mulch that you want and then not having enough of it. Ensure that it is not too thick, and not too thin. Spread the mulch about 5 centimetres thick. Anything thicker could harbour pests, and at the very least is wasteful and unnecessary.



When buying commercial mulch, be sure that the purchased product is certified and complies with the **Australian Standard® AS 4454-2012 - Composts, soil conditioners and mulches**, whose aim is to: Protect human health, the environment and food quality; and encourage beneficial and sustainable use to recover valuable nutrients and organic matter.

Ask at your local nursery or in your community garden about which mulch will adapt to your crops or plot. Always remember the health and safety guidelines when mulching. Don't let your plot get out of control and lose the battle against the weeds. Mulch now!



Emilio Anteliz  
31 March 2021

# TCOGA MEMBERS WORKING BEE

Sunday 30 May, 8.30 am – 12.00 midday



*We need your help to get on top of some of the tasks in the garden. If we all pitch in and do our 'bit' the task will become a lot easier and much more enjoyable.*

**A great way to get to know your fellow gardeners**

**Get out into nature and improve your mental and physical health**

**A great way to meet your obligation of 2 hours work per month in the community parts of the garden**

A light morning tea will be provided



**A task list will be on display on the day**

***f you can come for only an hour that is still very much appreciated and welcome***

## Herbs

Angelica  
Anise/Hyssop  
Borage  
Buckwheat  
Calendula  
Catnip  
Camomile  
Chervil  
Chickpea  
Chickory  
Chives  
Coriander  
Dandelion  
Dill  
Endive  
Evening Primrose

Fennel  
Florence Fennel  
Fenugreek  
Feverfew  
Linseed  
Lupin  
Marjoram  
Mustard  
Nasturtium  
Parsley  
Salad Burnett  
Salad Rocket  
Sage  
Thyme  
Vetch  
Watercress



Nasturtium

## What to Plant in May

Artichoke  
Beetroot  
Bok Choy  
Broad Beans  
Broccoli  
Brussels  
Sprouts  
Cabbage  
Carrots  
Collards  
Corn Salad  
Cauliflower

## Vegetables

Celery  
Celeriac  
Garlic Cloves  
Kale  
Kohl Rabi  
Leek  
Lettuce  
Mizuna  
Mustard  
Greens  
Onions  
Pak Choy  
Parsnip  
Peas—Climbing,  
Snow & Dwarf  
Radish  
Rhubarb  
Salsify  
Shallots  
Silverbeet  
Spinach  
Strawberries  
Swede  
Turnip



Mizuna



## 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>

## Reminder – Importance of Sign-in Book

TCOGA members are required to sign in via the member register book located in the shed on the table. Members visiting outside social gardening times also must fill in this register. This is required for insurance purposes. In the event of an accident, you will not be covered by insurance if you have not signed in appropriately. COVID -19 requirements also mean that we have to produce records to show who was at the gardens should the government request it.

## Quick Notes for Your Calendar

**15 & 16 May 2021—Pine Rivers Garden and Plant Fair—Pine Rivers Show Ring,  
757 Gympie Road, Lawnton**  
[pineriversgardenandplantfair.com.au](http://pineriversgardenandplantfair.com.au)

**TCOGA Meeting at The Gardens—Saturday 5 June at 10.00am  
(No May Meeting)**

**19 June—Esk Garden & Lifestyle Fair**  
[facebook.com/eskgardenandlifestylefair](https://facebook.com/eskgardenandlifestylefair)

**9—11 July 2021—Queensland Garden Expo— Nambour**  
[www.qldgardenexpo.com.au](http://www.qldgardenexpo.com.au)

**25 & 26 September—Grow Expo—Gatton Showgrounds**  
[www.growexpo.com.au/](http://www.growexpo.com.au/)

## German Potato Pancakes

These are a filling lunch or a hearty breakfast pancake and totally delicious. They are also inexpensive and easy to make.

### Ingredients

1/4 cup plain flour  
1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
1/4 teaspoon baking powder  
Pinch pepper  
2 eggs  
1 tablespoon chopped onion  
1 tablespoon chopped parsley  
0.9kg potatoes  
55 grams butter

### Method

1. Sift dry ingredients into bowl
2. Beat eggs well, add to dry ingredients with chopped onion and parsley; blend well
3. Wash, peel and grate potatoes. Place in cloth and squeeze out excess liquid, add potatoes to egg mixture. Beat thoroughly with a wooden spoon

4. Heat 55 grams butter in a frying pan. Spoon about 2 tablespoons batter into pan, flatten slightly with spoon.
5. Cook over medium heat until golden brown and crisp on one side. Turn carefully, brown other side
6. Drain on absorbent paper. Add more butter to pan for remainder of pancakes if necessary.



Toowoomba Mower  
Centre  
Supplying & Servicing



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### 2020—2021 COMMITTEE

**PRESIDENT:** Wendy Snigg

**SECRETARY:** Jeanette Walton—[tcoga.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:tcoga.secretary@gmail.com)

**TREASURER:** Kate Eglitis —[tcoga.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:tcoga.treasurer@gmail.com)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Joanne McClelland, Emilio Anteliz and Helen Dunne

**Newsletter Editor:** Carlene Gardiner—[tcoga.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:tcoga.newsletter@gmail.com)

Newsletter of Toowoomba  
Community Organic Gardens  
Association Inc.

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Past Newsletters [Link](#)

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