

TNG news August 2019

Next working bee is on Saturday 17 August 2019. The bee starts at 2 and we stop for shared afternoon tea at 4pm.

This month our main tasks will be sowing seeds in punnets and small pots in preparation for the big October Plant sale at the garden. We plan to hold the sale to coincide with National Garage Sale Trail on the weekend of 19-20 October. We have seeds, seed raising mix and punnets a plenty, so come along and pitch in. There will be seeds available for members to take home a few to bring on for their own plots too. It's a little early for most vegetable seed sowing, including tomatoes, so we will concentrate on herbs, and plan a day in a fortnight or so for the bulk of sowing.

Our big basket is missing

Does anyone know what happened to the extra large size handwoven basket that was hanging in the green house? It has been removed and we are sad to lose it as it was produced by a group of eager weavers at a community weaving session at the garden a year or so ago. We'd love to see it back in place....no questions asked!

Preparing plots for summer

September and October are busy gardening months when our temperate climate will be just right for the planting and sowing of wonderful summer vegetables, which will provide plot holders with fresh produce for many months.

Several plots at the garden are looking unloved, understandable in winter, but if you know that you will not be able to get your plot fully prepared for planting or planted out by end of October, please consider relinquishing it now. We have a substantial waiting list of people keen to take on a plot.

Vegetable waste

How to deal with waste from your plot or from the community plots

Harvesting Caulis, cabbages, and other brassicas: Pull the whole plant from the soil. Trim off leaves and stalk and CHOP the waste using the sharpened spade, and place in the appropriate bin. Large woody stalks can be disposed of in the green wheelie bin (ie Council collected garbage). Leaving the roots in the soil encourages disease, and just means that, in the case of the community plots, someone else has to clean up.

Kale, silver beet: Many plots have over-mature kale and silver beet hanging on. Pull it now (dispose of as above) and prepare the soil for new plants. Kale and beet do not take long to be ready for harvest and young leaves taste so much better.

Marigolds, borage, cosmos: pull them now. New ones are sure to 'volunteer', and when they do you can thin them out as desired to leave just a few for the bees and keep space for your edibles.

Hope to see you at the working bee on Saturday!