



Greening & Growing *together*

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2021

Join the Community 'Virtual' Greening Challenge... Again!

During last year's restrictions, the Community 'Virtual' Greening Challenge was such a success! We loved seeing all the fun and creative projects come to life. See them here www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/Learn/Community-Greening/Community-Virtual-Greening-Challenge

The current restrictions give us the opportunity to roll up our sleeves and get creative *again* to see what we can come up with.

If you've had a new idea for a project, now is the time to make it happen!

<https://youtu.be/57A7ndsrGiE>

The CV Greening Challenge is open to all gardeners associated with Community Greening and Junior Gardeners with the Youth Community Greening program to create something from your home, garden or surrounds, during the time of social distancing.

The sky is the limit! Building, weaving, growing, mosaic, flower arranging, trialing and creating a recipe, redesigning a garden space, yarn bombing, craft, art, poetry, writing, chalk art, making a video clip - anything with a link with the garden!

There will be prizes and certificates awarded to participants.



Provide your details below by email to a Community Greening staff member to register for the CV Greening Challenge.
community.greening@botanicgardens.nsw.gov.au

Or online on the Facebook Group Community Greening NSW
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/298284787339086/?ref=share>

You can also tune into live sessions in the Facebook group most Thursdays from 11am during lockdown and a series of short videos to keep you motivated.

We know you're creative – show us what you've got!

Our Newest Community Greening Officer



Hi, my name is Adina and I am the newest member of the Community Greening team. Starting a new role during lockdown is not easy, and I appreciate the warm welcome and support that Paddie, Darren, Peter, Brendan, and Phil have offered me!

It will take a while before I get out and about to meet many of you, so let me tell you a bit about myself. You can't hear my accent in writing, but I hail from the USA. Like many

Sydneysiders, my family is blended from several countries and cultures. I have moved many times in my life and have gardened in many climates and soils.

More than anything else, gardening helps me feel planted, connected, and settled as a person. I love growing food, and really can't get enough of it! I have had the privilege to do horticultural work with important plant collections, but I get the biggest joy out of a sweet, warm, fragrant tomato on the vine! I have studied permaculture, horticulture, and love teaching and learning in the garden.

I have loved every job I have had. Some highlights of the work I have done so far include working with adolescents in Texas to build sustainable garden systems with



bees, chickens, and veggies. I also loved working with people of all ages at an urban farm in the heart of Sydney. Most recently I have enjoyed working with students in the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney and The Australian Botanic Garden at Mt. Annan. I find so much joy in gardening with people!

I can't wait to get out to see all of the Community Greening gardens and get to know each of you and what you are growing! I'll be seeing you soon!

Getting Ready for Spring: Gardening Tips

We are so lucky in Sydney that we can be growing all year round! Here are some things to be doing in your garden in late winter and early spring:

Be on the LOOKOUT!

Cabbage moths, or cabbage butterflies might look like pretty white butterflies flitting around your cabbages, kale, broccoli and other vegies in the brassica family, but each time they land on a leaf, they are laying eggs! Their caterpillars hatch out and immediately start munching along – treating your vegies as their personal buffet!

If you notice holes in your vegie leaves, look carefully for the soft,



green caterpillars on the underside of leaves, or along the stems. You can also look for the yellow cylindrical eggs on the underside of the leaves. You want to keep on top of these before they eat everything! If you're lucky enough to know chickens, they'll be happy for a snack of tasty caterpillars!

Slugs and Snails! These hungry beasts will be leaving silvery trails behind after their nights of feasting. Try putting out a trap to lure them. I've heard that if you use warm water to dissolve the last bit of vegemite in the jar, that yeasty brew works just as well as beer!



Aphids! As the weather warms up and plants put on that tender new growth, the aphids will come looking for a sweet snack! Keep an eye out for them as well, and use a blast of water from the hose to rinse them off.



WEEDS be gone! Clear out the old to make room for the new! Make sure you bag and bin any weeds with seed heads on them. We don't want those spreading through our compost!

Build up the SOIL! Vegetable plants are like hungry teenagers,

eating all the time! But instead of the refrigerator and pantry, they're getting their nutrients from the soil! So before you plant again, feed the soil first. Working some well-rotted manure, compost, or blood and bone a spade's depth into the soil and letting it rest for a week or two before planting will give your vegies a strong start! If you have questions about specific nutrients or crop rotation, your Community Greening officer can help with advice!

THINK and PLAN! What worked well last season? What do you want to change for this season? Is it time to rotate crops? What grew well? What new things do you want to try? Start organizing your seeds and collect the seeds you want to grow this season. You can start some seeds indoors in a sunny windowsill to get a jump on the spring season!

CLEAN! I'm sure I'm not the only gardener who ends up with a messy shed. Now is the time to give pots a scrub, clean and polish the tools,

and bring a little order to your supplies. To minimise diseases, give everything a good clean so you'll be ready to go at planting time!

This year I am looking forward to trying my hand and growing glass corn, which I got in a seed swap with another gardener. To grow corn, get a jump on the season by starting seeds indoors. When the soil warms up, plant out 12 plants per square meter to improve pollination. Fingers crossed that I'll get a good harvest! What are you excited to grow this spring?



Adina Oosterwijk

What to plant in your garden now?

Sow in August		Harvest (weeks)		Sow in August		Harvest (weeks)	
Asparagus	D	2-3 years		Parsnip	D	17-20	
Beetroot	Ds	7-10		Peas	D	9-11	
Cabbage	Ds	8015		Potato	D	15-20	
Cape Gooseberry	Ds	14016		Radish	D	5-7	
Capsicum	2	10-12		Rocket	Ds	21-35 days	
Chilli	S	9-11		Shallot	D	12-15	
Eggplant	S	12-15		Snow peas	D	12-14	
Globe artichokes	S	12-15		Spring onions	D	8-12	
Kohlrabi	D	7-10		Strawberries	S	12 months	
Leeks	Ds	15-18		Sunflower	Ds	10-11	
Lettuce	Ds	8-12		Thyme	S	42-52	
Mint	S	8-12		Tomato*	Ds	8-17	
Mustard greens	D	8-12		Watermelon*	Ds	9-14	
Onion	Ds	25-34					

Key: D= sow direct S= sow in seed tray DS = sow direct or seed tray *=frost tender



I Go to My Garden

The loss of a loved one
I hold back my tears
Each day is a struggle
Full of sadness and fears.

But life does go on
In the most beautiful way
I go to my garden
And greet a new day

I see bees buzzing by
I hear birds sing their song
I go to my garden
It helps keep me strong

I feel soil alive
I smell flowers so true
I go to my garden
And know what to do

I nourish my soul
I clear my mind
When in my garden
I've lost nothing to find

Dedicated to the friends
we've lost.

By Darren

Royal Botanic Garden Sydney and Community Greening are on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Follow us.



<http://www.facebook.com/RBGSydney>



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Partners



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