

Gardening Articles for week ending January 9th 2016

Written by Wally Richards.

A NEW GARDENING YEAR

Welcome back to a new calendar year of gardening. The gardening year itself, is actual half way through as it started on the 1st June last year.

Having now past the longest day of the year we slowly head to the shortest day with ample time to plant more vegetables as long as you don't muck around.

Areas with short seasons will not be able to grow new plantings of tender crops such as tomatoes unless you have a glasshouse.

Planting time for leeks and brassicas seedlings for autumn and winter harvest. Protect brassicas with Neem tree Granules in the planting hole and on soil surface and cover with crop cover to keep butterflies off the plants.

Quick growing salad crops can be planted for succession which means a few plants every 2 weeks for a couple of months. This is mainly lettuce, radish and spring onions.

Winter flowering plants will be appearing in your garden shops soon and once they do plant out for those early displays. Check the spring bulbs you lifted last year to ensure they are sound. Throw any soft ones away to prevent rots affecting healthy bulbs. Planting out will start about March if conditions are suitable.

The Spring was not very good for many gardeners including myself, the extremes of temperatures, with cold winds made spring feel more like an early winter and the tender plants sulked.

As the weather settled in December tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, corn and peppers responded and have been growing well since then.

I am very impressed with my tomato plants and new Tamarillos, the best looking plants that I have grown for about 5 years likely because I am using the New Silicon Cell Strengthening products and having some yellow sticky cards means the only psyllids I have seen so far are on the sticky cards.

If the tomatoes etc carry on without psyllid damage into late autumn I can give the thumbs up to this new program.

Before Christmas I had a few gardeners contact me with tomato problems which after seeing pictures or having the condition of the plants described to me, the problems either turned out to be psyllids or herbicide damage from purchased compost.

Roses and strawberries are also responding better with the settled weather now the stress of the weather has been removed.

Clearer skies this season has meant more direct sunlight hours which has made a difference to corn

and flowering of pumpkins and cubits, so thank you to those that endeavour to control our weather. I am even getting to see a good display of stars when I take the dogs out for their toilets about 11pm.

It looks like an interesting year ahead of us with what is happening around the world, so its a good time to be prepared for any contingency.

Food security, which means planting vegetable gardens to fall back on and to also improve the nutritional value of your diet.

Many of us older generation are amazed at the masses of people at Supermarkets especially at holiday time when they are going to be closed for a day. You would think that doomsday had been announced and people were stocking up for a month or more.

Food security means to have a good vegetable garden and cupboards stocked with non-perishables so if something happens to go wrong you don't need to panic for a while.

Another very good reason to grow as much of your vegetable needs as possible is for your health.

By growing your food naturally without using chemicals means your crops will be brimming with nutritional values and without toxic chemicals.

Your taste buds will tell you how great your crops are, your body will have the vitamins and minerals it needs to repair the damage conventionally grown and processed food does.

You will have more energy, lose weight and think clearer. A few back up food supplements such as Organic Virgin Coconut oil, MSM and Shark Liver oil Caps certainly help with your health.

When you can, choose organic grown foods as they are free of the hundreds of chemicals used in growing crops and processed foods these days.

Your health and the health of your loved ones is dependent on the life style choices you make and prevention is easier than cure.

Growing your own and making good food choices does not mean you cant indulge in some not so good food items. The more goodness you have allows the body to get rid of the rubbish and harmful substances and keeps you healthy.

Health begins in the soil for all earth bound living things on the planet. The soil is a mass of living microbes and fungi along with many other soil dwellers such as earth worms.

Upon this handful of soil our survival depends. Husband it and it will grow our food, our fuel and our shelter and surround us with beauty. Abuse it and the soil will collapse and die, taking humanity with it. - From Vedas Sanskrit Scripture 1500 BC

There is a bit of wisdom from 3516 years ago and a truth that has been forgotten in the last 60 to 100 years. Your gardens or containers will produce healthy rich produce if you simply husband the soil.

This means NOT destroying the soil life with chemical fertilisers, chemical sprays, weed killers including glyphosate.

NOT watering your gardens with tap water containing chlorine, instead remove the chlorine with a 10 micron carbon bonded filter and housing.

Gardeners that have taken my advice on this important aspect tell me their gardens and plants are so much better now.

Using animal manures, chicken manure along with Calcium & Health, Rok Solid and Magic Botanic Liquid allows the soil life to grow and restore health to your soil.

Mycorrhcin feeds the soil life increasing their populations allowing your plants to feed better and grow stronger.

Remove disease (pathogens) from your soil with the new natural product Terracin.

This year I will introduce you to another two natural products which can make your good gardens even better.

One is a product to introduce into your garden's soil a range of new beneficial microbes and fungi.

The other is for promoting and providing beneficial microbes to populate the foliage of your plants assisting in the prevention of diseases.

It also puts the natural defence mechanisms of plants on full alert.

But and there is a big but, if you persist in living in a chemical garden then these products will not make any difference, just a waste of time and money.

Have a Happy, Healthy New Gardening Year..... Wally Richards