



# THE SUMMER PLOT

DECEMBER  
JANUARY  
FEBRUARY

2006/07

## at the Garden gate with David



### Boy!

Those frosts one not right that somebody is helping themselves. Remember that we work on a trust and honesty system over all after another made a set back for us. Some the garden and if you break that trust we have only one escaped unharmed but others of us option which is for you to leave the Garden. You are well-lost a lot. Just shows you can never come to produce providing you see a committee member BEFORE you take it. The same applies to hoses, shovels, rakes, etc owned by someone else. Please ask and tell when the weather will throw up a curly one. Still, as good gardeners as we are, we simply put in another crop and away we go again. you will seldom be refused - but ask first.

The garden plots are looking very productive. Keep it up. Some plots are still looking a bit "formative". If yours is one put in an extra effort to get it dug and planted out. - even if it is a crop of spuds or pumpkins. We are coming up fast to February 4-5th which is our open day for Open Garden Scheme and we will certainly want to look good on that weekend.

Ralph has been on the recovery list after a hernia operation and we missed his cheery presence for a while but I am pleased he is back on deck again but do treat him kindly - he is still taking it gently.

The community plots of spuds and pumpkins are planted out and the garlic will soon be ready for harvest. A reminder that though these plots are grown and cared for by all, the produce is for sale to boost our funds and it is

Many tasks are undertaken by members - grass cut, beds planted or weeded, garden stakes cut for community plots, equipment mended, shed tidied, rotary hoeing done, pavers collected, and all these jobs are very much appreciated. I don't always find out who is responsible but I thank you just the same. These voluntary efforts are the strength of our group and all of us benefit. Thank you.

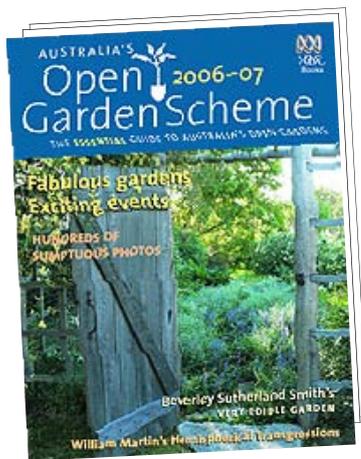
When watering, make sure you have a trigger operated nozzle and water deeply. A twenty minute **DEEP** watering once a week is better than ten 2 minute waterings every day. You will use the same amount of water but get a much better result from a deep watering. If you encourage roots close to the surface they burn very easily.

Enjoy your gardening and look forward to those luscious tomatoes.

Celebrating  
**25**  
years

RINGWOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN INC

## "The Tastes of Summer at Ringwood Community's Open Garden



"This large community garden celebrates the ethnic backgrounds of its gardeners with its diverse and interesting range of crops in 100 plots. Berries and vegetables of every type mingle with herbs and other pest-repelling companions such as marigolds and nasturtiums.

Saturday

Sunday

February 3rd

February 4th

10.00 AM 4.30 PM

10.00 AM 4.30 PM

Walk past any community garden and you'll see people interacting - exchanging seeds and growing tips, sharing tools and a laugh, offering a sympathetic ear. Like the corner pub, the community garden becomes a meeting ground

Vegetarian Times, March, 2000 by Mark Harris

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What to Plant



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Pumpkin Pie

Beneficial insects



# community gardens - a world-wide phenomenon



Australia is not the only country with 'community gardens'. Garden allotments are popular in Britain, Germany, France, Denmark, the Netherlands, Greece and several other European countries.

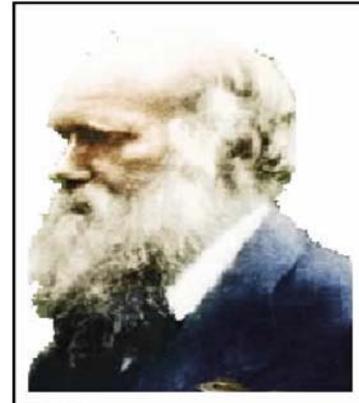
In the former Eastern bloc countries, where datchas are the allotment equivalents, many of them provide food to feed the new market economy, as well as individual families. The same is true... in France and southern Europe. In Britain it is illegal to sell allotment produce. In the U.S., there are 3.5 million 'community gardens', mainly on the East coast

(Trevor Lawson, *Geographical*; Nov 94, Vol. 66 Issue 11, p.42)

Communal gardens have been in use in Europe and the United Kingdom since the early nineteenth century... As early as 1819 in

the U.K. and the 1830's in Western Europe, allotments were available to the urban working classes.

(C. Eliot, *Growing in the City...* 1983)



Charles Darwin was the first to use the term 'allotment' to describe a small piece of land that was rented for cultivation.



Climbing beans
Beetroot
Cabbage
Brussels Sprouts
Cabbage
Carrots
Celery
Cauliflower
Chinese Cabbage
Cucumber
Herbs
Lettuce
Melons
Spring Onions
Potato tubers
Pumpkin
Radish
Rhubarb
Silver beet
Sweet Corn
Zucchini

December - January  
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Celebrating  
25  
years

# the Litmus test

## it's important to get the pH right



Soil acidity or alkalinity is measured on a logarithmic scale called pH (potential hydrogen) and is an important indicator of your soil's health.

1 is highly acidic, 7 is neutral and 14 is highly alkaline.

Tomatoes, capsicum and eggplant like an acidic soil while onions prefer a 'sweet' or alkaline soil.

High acidity or alkalinity will lock up nutrients so its important to get pH balance right.

Because of their age, Australian soils are slightly acidic with a pH around 5.0 to 6.5 which makes growing vegetables and balancing pH here easier.

By simply applying lime, limestone or dolomite you can increase your pH level and 'sweeten' the soil.

Because different vegetables prefer different levels of acidity or alkalinity, it is important to measure the pH periodically and adjust it accordingly.

### **Very acid** (pH 5.0 to 5.8)

blueberry  
celeriace  
eggplant  
endive  
potato  
raspberry  
rhubarb  
shallot  
spinach  
wild strawberry  
sweet potato  
watermelon  
bean

### **Moderately acid** (pH of 5.5 to 6.8)

Brussels sprouts  
carrot  
collard greens  
corn  
garlic  
parsley  
pea  
peppers  
pumpkin  
radish  
squash  
sunflower  
tomato  
turnip

### **Slightly acid** (pH 6.0 to 6.8)

asparagus  
beet  
bok choy  
broccoli  
gooseberry  
kale  
kohlrabi  
lettuce  
mustard  
oats  
okra  
onion  
peanut  
pear  
spinach

### **Alkaline** (pH 7.0 to 8.0)

Swiss chard  
cabbage  
cauliflower  
celery  
Chinese cabbage  
cucumber  
thyme

Man is so made that he can only find relaxation from one kind of labour by taking up another.

Anatole France

For STAGE 3  
WATER RESTRICTIONS  
Ringwood  
Community Garden  
is an EVEN  
address

Stage 3  
Watering  
Is on  
Saturdays  
and Tuesdays

Thanks to the Ringwood Community Gardeners who are using their Community Benefits card.

The Club receives a small commission from purchases registered against the card.





F1 hybrid means 'filial first generation' but the seed that develops from F1 fruit won't germinate.

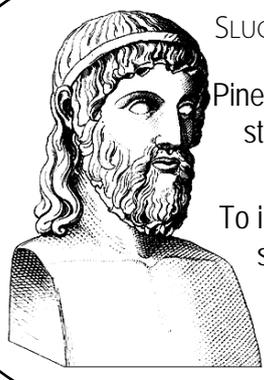
**Iva Cabbage** was born to John and Ann on January 31st 1886, at Glendon, Iowa

# PUMPKIN PIE

- 2½ cups strained cooked pumpkin
- 2 lightly beaten eggs
- pinch salt
- unbaked pastry case
- ¼ cup cream
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon plain flour
- ½ teaspoon vanilla essence
- ½ teaspoon of cinnamon, nutmeg & mixed spice
- ½ teaspoon lemon essence OR juice and rind

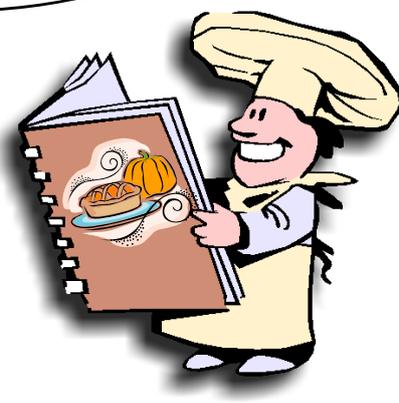
- Mix pumpkin, cream and eggs.
- Add sugar, salt and flour, cinnamon, nutmeg and mixed spice.
- Mix well then add lemon and vanilla essence.
- Pour into unbaked pastry case.
- Bake at 220°C for 10 minutes
- Then reduce to 175°C for about 40 minutes until mixture does not stick to a knife.
- Serve hot or cold with cream.
- Can be covered with nuts, brown sugar and butter, placed under the griller until slightly caramelized.

GETTING NEEDED BY SLUGS & SNAILS?



Pine needles are a good mulch under strawberries because they deter slugs and snails.

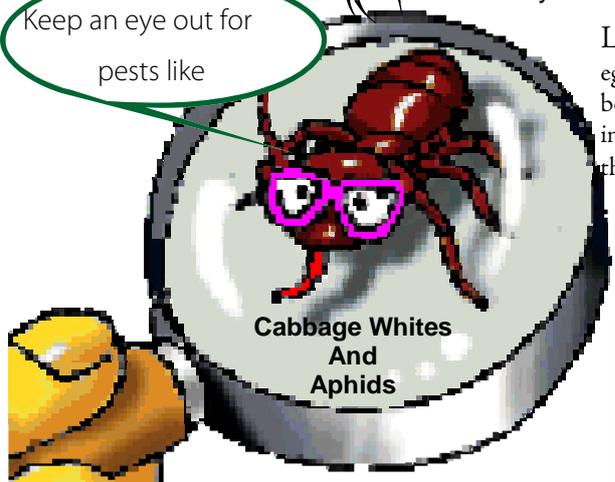
To increase soil acidity a trick that some gardeners use is soaking pine needles before watering the resulting mixture in.



"To own a bit of ground, to scratch it with a hoe, to plant seeds, and watch the renewal of life... this is the commonest delight of the race, the most satisfactory thing a man can do."  
 - Charles Dudley Warner (1829-1900)

Encourage Beneficial insects which include - parasitic wasps and spiders - ladybirds and their larvae - lacewings and their larvae - preying mantis.

Keep an eye out for pests like



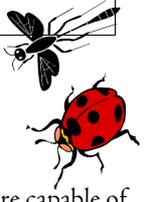
Lacewing larvae attack the eggs of most pests and, if the bodies are not too hard or the insect fast moving, will attack the adult pest stage as well.



Mantis eat aphids, and other soft-bodied insects. Adults eat larger insects, beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, and other pest insects.



Ladybirds are capable of consuming 50 to 60 aphids per day but will also eat a variety of other soft-bodied insects and larvae.



Whoever said, "Do something right the first time and you won't have to do it again," never weeded a garden.—Anon.