

WINTER NEWSLETTER

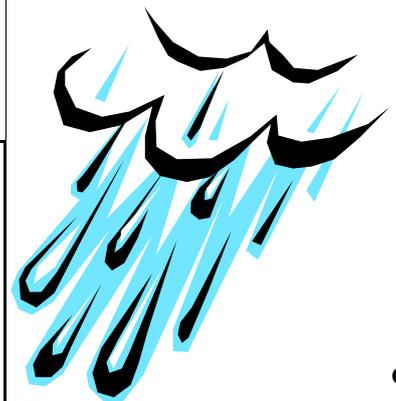
June 2005

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P LEASANT PLOT PERIMETERS AND PATHS

It is pleasing to see many members have opted to install timber edges around their plots, and mulch their pathways—resulting in a tidier appearance and alleviating the muddy quagmires of last year. The two loads of mulch were snapped up in no time, and for those who missed out, we hope to obtain more soon. The installation of timber surrounds to plots is aesthetically more pleasing but members are under no obligation to put these in place.



What a relief to see *some* rain — hoping the flooding deluges of last year are not repeated.



Green Manure—Revisited

by Fay Beslee

Although this topic has been included in previous newsletters, it is obvious that some members have not grasped the concept fully. I have been asked why I am growing “grass” and another member has assured me he has “manured” his plot. So, here are the basics once again.

A “green manure” is a crop of either:-

CEREAL — oats; barley; rye corn

OR

LEGUMES — lupins; tic beans; dun peas (AKA field peas or pigeon peas) which are dug back into the soil prior to flowering or setting seed AND whilst still GREEN, then allowed to decompose.

The benefit is an increase in organic matter which, in turn, improves soil structure and aids in breaking up clay soils. The addition of animal manure will accelerate the decomposition process. Plant your crops thickly, as you want as much bulk as possible.

Oban Trading sells all these seeds @ \$1.10 per

kilogram with Lupins @ \$3.30. per kilo.

Plot 92 has lupins, Plots 22, 54 and others have oats, and plots 5 and 1 have combined oats and dun peas. Take a look.

The use of animal manure on its own is fine for green, leafy crops such as the Brassica family, but crops such as tomato, produce lush green growth at the expense of flowers—it is the fruit, not the leaves, we want, so a healthy soil with plenty of organic matter is more beneficial.

Root crops such as carrots and parsnips should never be planted in fresh manure as they will be distorted or “forked” and onions will grow foliage to the detriment of bulb growth, or the bulb will be soft and won't keep.

Those members who have not added any manure or planted a green manure crop must realise that this year your crops may have been successful but will have almost certainly depleted all the nutrients in their soil and cannot expect the same results next year.

You MUST FEED YOUR SOIL.



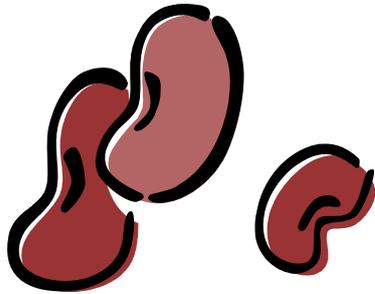
WINTER PLANTINGS

A few suggestions:-

Broad Beans

Do not overcrowd as air circulation is important to avoid chocolate spot on the leaves.

Add wood ash to the top of the soil to combat this.

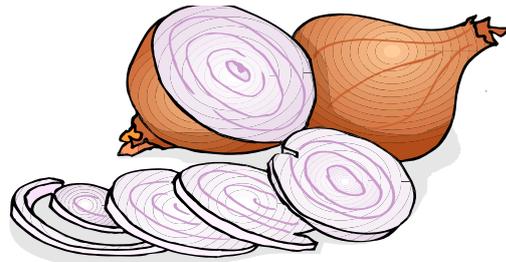


Plant broad beans with the black line down



Peas—

William Massey (AKA Melbourne Market) is a dwarf pea suitable for early planting, whilst Green-feast and Telephone could go in a little later. The main consideration is that peas should not flower if frost is expected, as the flower will not set pods. Soil needs to be well drained and limed. Do not plant too deeply as the seed may rot.



Winter crops include onions

Onions -

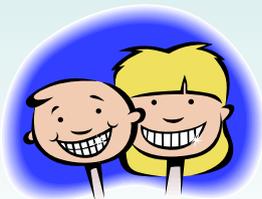
Seed may be sown direct into the soil. However, I prefer to grow them in DEEP pots and transplant. NEVER buy seedlings where the roots are tangled out the bottom of the punnet.

For long-keeping brown onions PUKEKOHE (AKA Cream Gold) should be sown June/July.

White Spanish is probably the best long-keeping white onion.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome



Since the last membership list was published in October 2004 Newsletter, we have welcomed several new members to our garden.



Plot 44	Colin Carter
Plot 53	Lilian Markic
Plot 71	Annie Chow
Plot 75	Anthony Wong
Plot 90	Ben Clarke
Plot 96	Steve McMillan
Plot 98	Ramon Prat

THANKS GO TO:-

David and Megan Watkins, Diane Griffith, John Jenkinson, Charles and Verna Schaefer, Bob and Joan Neave, and Fay Beslee for manning the recruitment table at the Maroondah Festival.

- Charles, David Puckey and Bob for construction and installation of the bollards.
- Charles, Bob, Ray, John, Carlos and Ralph for repairs to the mangled gates.
- Charles, Bob, Ray, Ralph, Phil and Fred for installation of the IGLOO.
- Charles, Bob and Ralph for mowing.



Installing the IGLOO



- Alfred for repairs to the tiller
- Alle and Phil for digging and weeding a charity plot

What is needed in gardening is a cast-iron back, with a hinge in it.

- With apologies to Charles Dudley Warner



(Continued on page 4)

AGM - AUGUST 30TH

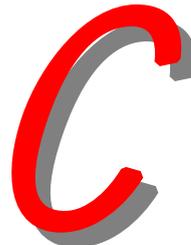
VANDALISM

EPISODE V

At the time of going to press, the lock on the single gate has again been broken and stolen. We strongly urge you to remove anything of value:-

I.e. tools, bags of manure etc .

At this stage we can rule out any vegetarians as the culprit.



COMPETITIONS



Fay is suggesting that the members with a competitive spirit may be interested in a competition for the first ripe tomato,



Are members interested in any other intra-club competitions? So that your interest may be assessed, please contact Fay, our Honorary Treasurer, and we will then be able to discuss this at the AGM. It's your Club so we must be guided by you, the members.



Members who have not yet removed the debris of summer crops or weeds are requested to do so ASAP. Both are havens for insects, and weed reduction is something we all wish to achieve. It is only fair to your fellow members to carry out this "house keeping" task. Sow a green manure crop or cover your plot with weed mat.

Calendar



A calendar has been put in the shed to advise of coming events and lists crops which may be sown or planted for that month.

REMINDERS

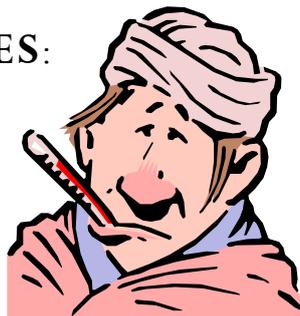


Members are reminded that parking of cars is not permitted in the garden — you should drop off your load and park outside. However, if you have to drive in, please replace the bollards whilst in the garden. Do not leave them lying on the ground. Another vehicle could damage them or suffer damage; making you liable.

A man should never plant a garden larger than his wife can take care of.

GET WELL WISHES:

Go to Ken Nicholls and Arthur Kollios — both have had hospital stays — hope you're both on your feet soon.



Please pay plot fees promptly.
NO REMINDERS!



AGM - AUGUST 30TH



(Thanks:- Continued from page 2)



- Charles, Ray, David P., Ralph, Ian Griffith, Manual and Fay for the manure pick-ups.

- Ralph for the 'tap' handle repair and 2 loads of mulch

These tasks were in addition to the Working Bee—The same people appear to be doing all the “extras” - how about a few more volunteers?

If anyone has been omitted from this list please accept this as an acknowledgement of your contribution.

The Committee is recommending to the AGM (as signalled in the last Newsletter) that the “working bees” be replaced by a rostered system so that all maintenance can be progressively kept up-to-date. This will also ensure all members participate and the tasks are not left to the “willing” few.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The AGM will be held Tuesday, August 30th at 7.30 p.m. The venue is the Ringwood Room at the Ringwood Library, Civic Place in front of the Eastland Shopping Centre. Note the date—it is a “must attend” event.

About three weeks before the meeting you will receive a copy of the AGM Agenda and the Annual Report.

All Committee positions fall vacant at the meeting, a new Committee will be elected and office bearers selected by the members.



Any member who would like to make their services available to the Club and Committee should advise the Honorary Secretary, John Jenkinson, If you are unable to attend the A.G.M. but would like to nominate for the Committee, please indicate your willingness to serve in writing.

The Gardener's Hymn

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.



.....
But what they never mention,
Though gardeners know It's true,
Is when He made the goodies,
He made the baddies too.

All things spray and swattable,
Disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable,
The Lord God made them all.

The greenfly on the roses,
The club root on the greens,
The slugs that eat your lettuce,
And chew the aubergine.



The drought that kills the fuchsias,
The frost that nips the buds,
The rain that drowns the seedlings,
The blight that hits the spuds.

The midges and mosquitoes,
The nettles and the weeds,
The pigeons in the green stuff,
The sparrows on the seeds.

The fly that gets the carrots,
The wasp that eats the plums,
How black the gardeners outlook,
Though green may be his thumbs.

But still we gardeners labour,
Midst vegetables and flowers,
And pray what hits our neighbours,
May somehow bypass ours.



New Format

We are indebted to Ralph Powell for donating his time and computer expertise to prepare this newsletter.

Fay Beslee is the major contributor to this issue.

Gardening requires lots of water - most of it in the form of perspiration.

- Lou Erickson



PLOT FEES DUE NOW