

Spring Vegetable Garden Notes

Eggplants... Plant seedlings September/October in rich well worked soil...slightly acidic. Feed fortnightly with liquid Seasol or similar. May need to stake the plant as it grows to a 1mt. tall. Plant in same patch as Tomatoes, capsicums and chillies ... All belong to Solanacea Family. Make sure they do not visit the same patch for at least two years. This will lessen the possibility of disease.

Tomatoes... Do not like a lot of nitrogen-based fertilizer. Well composted manure is great and then mulch around plant. They like slightly acidic soils. Stake when planting and water regularly...every week around roots. When planting, tomatoes will grow more strongly if set in soil at a lower depth than they have been previously growing. This encourages new roots to grow from the base of the stem and anchors them more securely to the soil!

Check citrus for magnesium deficiency. Leaves will yellow near centre of leaf. Water drip line with magnesium sulphate. Keep all grass away from roots. They hate competition as the roots are close to surface. Spray citrus trees with white oil to control bronze orange bug, citrus leaf miner and black sooty mould. Spray every three weeks throughout spring. Make sure you spray all leaves and bark.

Vegetables that prefer a slightly alkaline ph are Asparagus, Beans, Cauliflower, Garlic, Kale and Brussel Sprouts.

Plant sage around cabbages to deter white moth. They dislike the smell of sage!

The next time you chop into a pumpkin, dig out the seeds and wash thoroughly. Dry with paper towel and spread on baking tray and sprinkle with salt. Bake in moderate oven for 5 minutes. Cool, then place in airtight jar. Delicious with salads or in cereals. Very high in magnesium, iron and zinc. Oh...and very cheap!!!