

EDIBLE GARDENS FOR SMALL PLACES ON THE CHEAP!



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ORGANIC OR INDUSTRIAL FOOD PRODUCTION

“Organic farming resembles the origins of farming and food production, without the use of artificial chemicals, antibiotics or genetic modification.”

Mayo Clinic



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POST WWII FOOD PRODUCTION

Timeline:

- 1950s onwards: Exploding population
- Obsolete armoury/chemical companies targetted agriculture to continue their profits
- Artificial fertilizers developed to increase yields
- Clearing of more land...large scale farming....more pests
- Pesticides increased
- Seeds hybridized in labs to increase yields/decrease pest attack
- Yields reported to be dropping in the 1990s
- 2000s: Soil Science is detecting massive loss of carbon in soil . Also a relationship bewteen microbes and plant roots and the destruction of them by pesticides
- Multi Nationals develop GM crops and seeds that are resistant to pesticides so can be sprayed while growing
- Loss of heritage seeds
- Many large seed companies bought by chemical companies
- Some Third World farmers can no longer save their seed for next years crop and are forced to buy from chemical companies each season



SOIL IMPROVEMENT IS THE KEY TO HAPPY PLANTS



- Basic requirements..water, food, light
- Microbes are a plants best friend
- Compost and worms
- Hydrophobia and Bentonite
- Coco Peat and Peat Moss
- Good Potting Mix



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WATER

- Water more frequently when growing in containers
- Install drip system on a timer
- Use Wicking Bed Containers



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PLANT FOOD

- Seaweed
- Worm castings and worm wee
- Bacterial Solutions
- Compost and Compost Teas
- Commercial Organic fertilizer
- Rock Dust



SUNLIGHT

Heat Stress is a bigger problem than lack of water

- Most vegetables need 6-8 hours but get 10-11 hours in Perth!
- Summers are harsh
- Steel fences and brick walls burn
- Set up temporary shades



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CONTAINERS



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WICKING BEDS

- Solid water holding container
- Agri pipe or poly pipe,
- Gravel or blue metal
- Shadecloth
- Potting mix



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GROWING FROM SEED

- Heirloom or open pollinated seeds versus industrial seeds
- Advantages- cheaper, diversity, food security
- Seed Swap and Share (Public Library, Community Gardens, Facebook Groups)
- How to Grow
- Where to Buy (Yilgarn, perthhillsveggieco.com.au, seeds2freedom.com.au, Merribeeorganic seeds (W Diggers, Eden, King, Seed Freaks (Interstate)
- Transplanting



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TRANSPLANTING SEEDLINGS

- Grow (or buy) small healthy looking seedlings
- Prepare soil
- Add worm castings to each hole before the seedling is placed in it
- Be gentle squeezing seedling out of cells or trays to minimize any root disturbance.
- Add seaweed spray but NO FERTILIZER for at least a week
- Fertilize vegetables every week to increase cell development and yields



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COMPANION PLANTING

“Companion planting in gardening and agriculture is the planting of different crops in proximity for pest control, pollination, providing habitat for beneficial creatures, maximizing use of space, and to otherwise increase crop productivity” *Wikipedia*

- Examples: Onions/garlic/shallots and carrots, Corn, pumpkin and beans, Cucumber and lettuce



Monoculture

ORGANIC PEST CONTROL

- Use companion planting
- Scatter plants do not plant in rows if possible.
- Grow flowers to attract beneficial insects (especially white and blue)
- Set up insect hotels
- Nets
- Organic sprays and powders



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PLANTING GUIDES

- Gardenate App
- Yates Garden Guide
- Waste Authority Online Edible Garden Guide
http://www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au/media/files/wws/Edible_School_Garden_Planting_Guide.pdf



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GROWING YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- Use the library resources!
- Join a local Community Garden
- Permaculture or Organic Gardening groups
- Facebook gardening groups
- Plant, succeed, fail, learn and ENJOY!



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THANK YOU FOR LISTENING



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