



Welcome to vegetableseeds.net.au

April 2015 Newsletter

AGFEST SPECIAL

The merry month of May is AGFEST month on May 7th, 8th and 9th.

When you visit AGFEST, Tasmania's premier agricultural event, this year you can visit our easy to find site at number M95 Main Street located on the corner of Main and 11th, and grouped with all the horticultural sites. This will be our seventh enjoyable year at AGFEST.

This year we have a larger site with our partners Northern Support School, and Ravenswood Community Gardens. Teaching staff and students will be with us so that you can see a working partnership between a school and a business.



Our larger site allows you to access our seeds more easily than in previous years and give you more of a chance to browse and ask us questions which we are always happy to answer.



The students will bring along the produce that they have tended and grown from Inspirations seeds to show you what your seeds will grow.

This is a working partnership between Northern Support School, with the school vegetable garden RCG and Inspirations Garden Centre. The partnership goes from strength to strength.

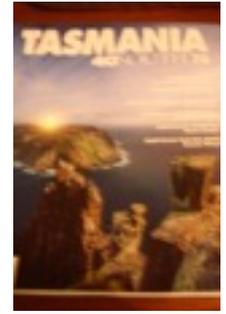
Tasmania 40° South

We had some excellent news this March; the quality magazine 40° South published a two-page story about our partnership. This magazine has high quality Tasmanian stories and is widely read in Tasmania and on the mainland.



The editor Chris has done a fantastic job for tourism in our state, which is rapidly gaining interest on the mainland and overseas as a holiday destination, with excellent fine dining, local produce, unspoilt beautiful wilderness, friendly people, and wonderful accommodation.

A big thank you to all of you who take time to read the newsletters, and to all who have engaged in them by emailing me questions, suggestions and comments.



I studied at Writtle Agricultural College, Essex, UK, and gained an HND (Higher National Diploma) in Horticulture. At that time the only degree in Horticulture offered was at London University, Wye College (now alas defunct) and it was not in the particular Horticultural field I wished to study at that time. I have over thirty years of experience in virtually all fields of horticulture and am happy to share that knowledge with you all.

Seeds Glorious Seeds

What to plant sow now in cool climate Australia.

Sow our variety of sweet red onion and beautiful brown from late April until late May; they will be ready for harvest in December to January, see photo.



Garlic



The variety we sell has fine large cloves and many of them, a rich but not too hot flavour, are easy to peel, smooth and rich in oils, and it keeps for many months.

Many of you have commented that this is a good selection, opinions vary as to whether it is what I purchased it as - Americky Maly.

It could have been labelled incorrectly at source, I trialled over 15 varieties to select this one which I believe was the best for commercial production, at that time out of all the 15 I trialled. Some suggest it is Besancon 7340 but does it matter? It tastes good, and keeps well.

Golden shallots

Uniform sized almost round golden skinned approx. 6cm diameter, easier to peel than potato onions, but also have a strong flavour so ideally suited for pickling, can be used in stews, casseroles, curries, flavouring gravy, sir fries. Some like them raw in sandwiches but I find them a bit hot and harsh in flavour. Plant with the top of the bulb just showing above the surface of the soil, approximately 10-15cm apart.



Red shallots



Larger, red skinned, finer flavoured sweeter shallots. These are about 10 to 12cm diameter and harder to split for sowing the individual bulbs. Can use for pickling but even better for frying, salads, stir fries, and for use in baking, gravy, casseroles, curries. Grow as for golden shallots.

Bulky organic matter

Now is an ideal time to replace the organic matter that all your crops have used for growing in spring and summer. Use sheep manure, mushroom compost, your own compost, cow manure. It is amazing how much goodness fast growing vegetable plants take out of the soil that must be replaced.

Green manures

Try sowing our blend a mixture of black oats (a non- invasive selection), tic beans and annual lupins now. It has everything to improve the structure and texture of your soil. Sow April until end May, June in warmer areas. Will not bolt to seed, but grows slowly until early spring when you cut it to ground level and either leave to die down or dig it in. Prevent weeds from growing by swamping them out.

Sow our rarer broad beans

Red epicure, 1,5m to 2m tall plant, white flowers with mahogany red seeds. Rich flavour.

Purple flowered broad bean. 1.5m tall plant with purple flowers and small dark green beans, nutty flavour.

Paramo, a rare cool climate variety tolerates very cold higher altitudes but also grows anywhere down to sea level. Interesting foliage, very different to the normal bean leaves. White flowers, large pods and seeds. Spreading habit several stems, 1m to 1.5m tall.

Witkiem, 1.5m to 2m tall plant, white flowers, large flat white bean seeds, full of flavour.

Sow them April until late August, maybe in some regions it will be too cold to sow in winter itself, say late June-July.

How it works

Your broad beans sown in April to August flower about late October, bees pollinate and beans form from late November until early January. Do not panic if you only see flowers for ages, you will get beans.

Seeing red, and chilling out.

Harvest your capsicums and chillis before the first frosts. These are our chillis hanging up to dry for use in the winter and spring.



Special Offer

This brings us to the special offers at AGFEST for newsletter readers.

If you can't attend AGFEST as a gesture for all of you who take the time to read my ramblings: If you purchase one packet or more of seeds online, we will send you one FREE packet of merida carrot seeds, value \$3.85 for 1,000 seeds.

This offer ends May 9th. After you have placed your online order, email me at dandjkenyon@iinet.net.au saying HAPPY AGFEST and that will assure you of your free 1000 carrot seeds.

Remember we also have FREE postage, so this is a genuine offer.

At AGFEST only all our seed packets will have 10% off. The garlic will be \$12 for 200g instead of \$14.40, and the golden shallots, red shallots and potato onions will be \$12 for 200g instead of \$13.70.

Please ask me at AGFEST for more information about the Complete Organic Fertiliser; \$9 for 2.5 lt and the Complete Inorganic Fertiliser \$5.50 for 2.5 lt. We will have these fertilisers at AGFEST where you can purchase both products.

We look forward to answering any questions about these products you may have, no matter how challenging!

Look forward to seeing you at AGFEST

At Inspirations Garden Centre, if you are local or visiting the Tamar valley, we will have our new stock of citrus trees, everything from Meyer lemon trees to Australian native lime trees.

Next month, continuing on from the World of Bacteria, we will look at the World of Fungi and their relationships with vegetable plants.

I will also explain very simply the terms "Complete Organic Fertilizer" and "Complete Inorganic Fertilizer" (some may say non-organic) mentioned in the March newsletter, to avoid any confusion about the meanings in this particular situation.

Happy gardening wherever you may be.

