



Welcome to vegetableseeds.net.au

December 2015 Newsletter



Welcome to www.vegetableseeds.net.au newsletter December 2105.

Firstly a big thank-you to all of you who have taken the time to read these newsletters throughout the year and for your many comments. Thanks also to all of you who have ordered from us; without you we would not be able to offer the diverse range of seeds every year, and we believe it is important for the home gardener to access as many different lines of seeds as possible. Many of the beans for example are in real danger of disappearing as modern cultivars replace these regional heirlooms.

Next year between January and February we will update the catalogue and add a few more goodies, we are also going to increase the amount of seeds in the packets of some of the bean and pea cultivars but keep the existing price.



What to sow/plant in December

For the autumn winter garden



Brussel sprouts, Broccoli, Broccollette, cabbages such as Savoy King, Savoy Ace, Spring Hero and Sweet Green, cauliflowers, kholrabi, Tas Butter swedes, main crop overwintering carrots, Black Spanish radish, parsley, kale, leeks from transplants. Most of these develop that sweet rich flavour when the colder weather comes along.

For the summer garden



Beetroot, lettuces, carrots, sweet Japanese turnips, green beans and edamame; it may be a bit late for dry beans now though.

It is probably a bit late for English Spinach, silver beet and Asian greens - they could go to seed. It is probably too early for Chinese cabbage and Pak Choi, these may be better sown in late January through February.

What to feed now

Pumpkins, zucchinis, cucumbers, corn, lettuces, cabbages, cauliflowers, beetroot, chillis, capsicums and eggplants as well as all vegetable plants grown in pots.

What to feed with

Assuming you have already used bulky organic matter to sow or plant in and maybe biochar, use Complete Organic Vegie Booster or Hybrid Vegie Booster (see previous newsletters). It is important to use liquid food like fish emulsion and balanced complete soluble fertilisers like Thrive, Aquasol or Miracle

Grow; one cap to 4 litres at least every 12 to 15 days throughout the growing season. This is because the potting mix in pots and even the organic matter does not actually feed plants, it is a growing media not a plant food. Also please, please keep the plants watered well, the cost of water is irrelevant to the return you will get in produce.

What to harvest now

Cabbages, Broccoli, Broccollette, cauliflowers, peas, broad beans, lettuces, beetroot, main crop onions when the tops fall over, potatoes - first crop, garlic, which needs to be laid down and dried in a shed before hanging to finish the drying process, potato onions and shallots – which need to be baked in the sun and each bulb carefully separated and dried so they don't rot off.



What look out for in December

Check for infestations of white fly, thrips, and cabbage moth, (see previous newsletters for controls).

It is wise not to put old cabbage leaves etc. into the compost; the moths will use them as a host. If you notice a virus on plants remove them and destroy them, viruses are very hard to control and cause the plant to become resulting in poor flowering and fruiting (see newsletter on viruses).

Check for fungal and bacterial infections, possibly due to a long hot summer mildew could be a problem this year but if you have fed your plants and watered them correctly there is not a lot else you can do and they should thrive.

You can use chemical controls such as mancozeb or copper oxychloride for most fungal and bacterial infections. On the other hand if we do get hot days and warm evenings from now until the end of summer this should promote good high yields of capsicums, egg plants, tomatoes, watermelons, melons, zucchini, cucumber, beans and pumpkins no matter if they are early or late varieties this year.

Control slugs and snails under leaves in cool damp places, and make sure that your garden is wallaby, possum, rabbit, rat and bird proof. The vegetable plants are at their most vulnerable to attack by these guys from late spring to late summer. Check for mineral deficiencies; if you are new to vegetable gardening these can appear and be very frustrating and puzzling, (see newsletters on minerals)

Make sure you have an irrigation system if you go on holiday, or a very responsible friend, relative or neighbour who will water your garden for you.

So that's it for the year, next year we will bring you more stories about the origins of the rarer collections of seeds and more special offers to readers of this newsletter.

Happy gardening to everyone, and enjoy December wherever you may be.



Merry Christmas from us all at Inspirations.

