



Welcome to vegetableseeds.net.au

May 2015 Newsletter

"To begin at the beginning"

A big thank-you to all of you who visited our site at AGFEST and for the fantastic feedback. My aim is for everyone to have success with vegetable gardening. This year we were proud to have the Northern Support School students participating on site with practical demonstrations.

Many patrons interacted in a positive way which is the true meaning of integration.



For the first time at AGFEST we were able to show you the link between the high quality and high yields of produce that the students grew at the community garden and outdoor classroom from our vegetable seeds.

Many patrons purchased seeds after having seen (and tasted as in the case of the Black Spanish radish) the produce and many others purchased the produce.

Several of you showed interest in the yams on display, some of you are waiting patiently for the King Island Kale seeds which we hope to have available soon.

Many of you grew Bob Reid's rare beans last year and had tremendous success and came back to try more, the broad bean Paramo was very popular as were the gourmet green beans and soy Edamame which really did produce high yields.

Thank you all for your continued support and interest, and thanks to the great organisation of the Northern Support School, Ravenswood Community Garden and our staff.





Harvest, harvest and gleaning the truth



Start harvesting the leaves of your English spinach 'Steadfast', the plants will continue producing leaves throughout the autumn /winter and early spring if you do this. Steadfast has wonderful subtle flavours. Sow seeds late summer to about mid- March, and again in late August through to October. It can go to seed if sown in the height of summer or not germinate in hot conditions.

Harvest sweet Japanese 'White Lady' turnips sown a few weeks ago now.



Harvest your Chinese cabbages from now until late winter then sow the next lot in September.

Harvest your celery now. Our giant celery has large fine flavoured stems, the advantage of such a large plant is the quantity of fine flavoured soup you can make.



Harvest your fennel bulbs from now until late July, they shouldn't go to seed until spring but just keep an eye on a flower stalk forming and if so harvest the bulbs quickly.

Harvest your Black Spanish radishes, carrots, swedes and parsnips now too, if they are big enough.



Harvest your beetroot leaves, and small carrots, even older Kale leaves, parsley and cabbage leaves. Everything can be gleaned and eaten. Nothing in the vegie garden that's edible can be wasted even if it does not look perfect.

Sow now.

Sow our sweet red and beautiful brown onion seeds throughout May. There are approximately 180 seeds in a packet for \$3.85; that's a great return on investment! Our varieties have a beautiful flavour and compliment your recipes. We have had so many customers tell us what a superb flavour these onions have.

Continue planting your garlic. \$14.40 for 200g.

Continue sowing your green manure; Blue lupins. \$12.50 for 450g.

Paramo broad beans are available again. This wonderful, rare, large seeded variety crops early over a long period and can grow in cold regions where temperatures drop to -18 °C. Sow now until August. 20 seeds for \$3.85.



Start a plan of what and where you are going to grow this Spring, make a list of what seeds you may need now. Have a look at our catalogue and previous newsletters for ideas.

A new look at organic gardening

The following information is rarely presented to home gardeners because it is difficult to explain and raises more questions than it answers about the fundamental practise of organic gardening, but here goes.

Definition of Organic gardening: 'Gardening without synthetic fertilisers and pesticides'.

In March I discussed complete organic and complete inorganic fertiliser, I'll explain these now.

CHEMISTRY DEFINITION OF ORGANIC:



'Carbon compounds many of which are associated with living organisms'. The element Carbon has the chemical symbol C.

For example Humic acid or Humates remain in the soil for years and contain Carbon (C), Oxygen Nitrogen and Hydrogen. To simplify this think of Humus which is the end result of decomposition=C.



CHEMISTRY DEFINITION OF INORGANIC:

'Compounds that do not contain Carbon'.

For example mono ammonium phosphate. Formula $NH_4H_2PO_4$. There is no C in that formula.

Is water organic? H_2O water is an interesting compound essential for



sustainable life on our Planet, again no carbon so it is not organic.

I used to play a game with my children called "Organic/Inorganic". We'd look at something and say why we thought it was one or the other, it's not as easy as you may think.

Technically there are also ingredients in COMPLETE ORGANIC FERTILISER which are INORGANIC like Potassium Sulphate K_2SO_4 . No



C in that little lot but it is accepted for organic certification. Complicated isn't it?

So if complete inorganic fertiliser has carbon in it why do we call it inorganic? I don't intend to dig a hole for myself, pun intended.

The simple explanation

In COMPLETE ORGANIC FERTILISER we are referring to ingredients that meet the criteria for 'ORGANIC CERTIFICATION'. We are NOT talking organic chemistry. We therefore label it COMPLETE ORGANIC VEGIE BOOSTER.



In COMPLETE INORGANIC FERTILISER some ingredients meet ORGANIC CERTIFICATION criteria like humates and some do not, like Mono ammonium phosphate.

The word 'inorganic' in COMPLETE INORGANIC FERTILISER from a Chemistry definition is misleading so we have renamed it COMPLETE HYBRID VEGIE BOOSTER.

Definition of hybrid for our purposes here



Hybrid = Two or more compounds blended together to create a new balanced fertiliser for vegetable crops to provide nutrient dense food for us.

Why does this matter? Read on...

COMPLETE ORGANIC VEGIE BOOSTER

Ingredients; High calcium ag lime, gypsum, soft rock phosphate, potassium sulphate, canola seed meal, Boron, zinc sulphate, Manganese Sulphate, Iron Sulphate, Copper Sulphate, kelpmeal.

COMPLETE ORGANIC VEGIE BOOSTER is currently \$9 for 2.5lt you are following organic certification guidelines, or you can get the ingredients in bulk from us to mix yourself.

COMPLETE HYBRID VEGIE BOOSTER

Ingredients; Humax 50 (Humates), calcium, calcium ultra-fine, AD PHOS Guano powder, Gypsum, Potassium Sulphate powder, Boron Humate granules, Copper Sulphate, Zinc Sulphate, Mono Ammonium Phosphate, Lo Blurete Urea, Ammonium sulphate (crystal), Calcium Nitrate.



COMPLETE HYBRID VEGIE BOOSTER is currently \$5.50 for 2.5lt. It is a prescription blend made for us. We also currently sell 25kg bags at inspirations for \$48. YOU are saving carbon rich humates in your garden for years. YOU are doing your little bit towards carbon storage in your own back yard. Think of all those thousands of back yards in Australia.

The bottom line

BOTH GIVE US NUTRIENT DENSE FOOD TO EAT. THEY ARE MORE THAN JUST FERTILISERS.

To sum up, so to speak.

Organic gardening can be defined as 'gardening without using synthetic fertilisers or pesticides'. But the chemistry definition underlying this belief is blurred as can be seen from the above examples. The word organic is often used to promote products by making them sound healthy, there is nothing wrong with this, but we need to understand a bit about science so that we can make sense of things in our world. Carbon storage being one of them.

I was going to introduce the World of Fungi and the importance of them to us home gardeners in this newsletter but the above is enough to digest this month... I will do that in the June newsletter.

Happy gardening, harvesting and cooking wherever you may be.

