



Vegetable gardens



Not only are they a great way to spend time outdoors and learn new things, but eating veggies you've grown yourself can be really rewarding – they're often tastier, fresher and chemical-free!

When starting a vegetable garden, here's a few things to consider:

Soil

This forms the beginning of your garden. It provides the oxygen, water and nutrients to the roots of your vegetables.

Tip: a worm farm is a great way to make soil healthy. You can use the castings to fertilize the soil to help your veggies grow. See the July issue of this newsletter, available on our website for more details.

Sun

Vegetables use sunlight to produce the energy they need to grow. This is called photosynthesis. Before you start planting, go outside from time to time during the day to check the position of the sun. Is it hitting the area where your garden will be? If so, for how long? Vegetables should get at least 4 to 5 hours of sunlight a day.

Water

It's important to water your vegetables regularly, don't just rely on the rain! You can also think about ways to recycle water. For example, when you're waiting for the shower to warm up, collect the water in a bucket.

Time and care

Some vegetables are better suited to different seasons, while others grow well all year around. Research the best times to grow each vegetable, and plan ahead.

Summer vegetables should be planted in Spring, while Winter vegetables should be planted in Autumn.

Here's a guide with the best seasons to grow some vegetables:

Vegetable	Summer	Winter
Beetroot	✓	✗
Broccoli	✗	✓
Brussels sprouts	✗	✓
Carrots	✓	✓
Cucumbers	✓	✗
Chillies	✓	✗
Lettuce	✓	✓
Peas	✓	✗
Spinach	✓	✗
Sweetcorn	✓	✗
Turnips	✓	✗
Tomatoes	✓	✓

As you can see, there are quite a few things to consider and plan before starting a garden. Often, it takes practice to get it right. If one group of vegetables doesn't grow, do something differently and try again.

Don't have a back yard?

You don't need one! Veggie gardens don't have to be huge – even a few pots on a balcony are enough to grow things.

Sources: Bulleen Art and Garden: www.baag.com.au/kids, Sustainable Gardening Australia: www.sgaonline.org.au, Global Garden: www.global-garden.com.au





Fun money facts

- In Athens, Greece, silver coins called drachmas were stamped with an owl. The coins were so successful, they continued to be made for 600 years!
- In 1535, strings of beads made from clam shells, called wampum, were used by North American Indians as money. Wampum means white, the colour of the clam shells and the beads.
- In the early 1500s, Portugal sent brass and copper to Africa to make coins. Instead, the Africans made jewellery such as necklaces, bracelets and anklets, which they called manilas, the Portuguese word for bracelet.
- A 'buck' is slang for a dollar. No one really knows where this originated, but many think it came from deerskins, also called buckskins that were traded by the Native Americans.

Rewarding you

Smart investor

When you save \$1,000 in your Under 18 Savings Account, you can open a term deposit.

Leave your money in there for a period of time (from 3 to 36 months) and you'll receive extra money called interest. Interest is what we pay you, just for keeping your money with us!



Alpha puzzle

Complete these 26 words below by using the letters of the alphabet only once. Cross off the letters as you go.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
V	W	X	Y	Z		

INVEST_NG	GIVIN_	IN_URANCE
MO_EY	DI_IDENDS	FINAN_E
IN_ORMATION	_OBS	_ARTHONE
_NION	_CCOUNT	PA_
_IDS	IN_EREST	SHAREHO_DER
_ERO	TA_ATION	DEP_SIT
_ORROWING	INCO_E	WITHDRA_AL
S_ENDING	UNI_UE	CRE_IT
S_ARING	MO_TGAGE	

Do you know what all these words mean? If not, look them up!

WIN an iPod shuffle!

Have you ever thought about how far money travels?

Pick a coin, and write a story about its imaginary journey – it could even land back into your hands!

Send in your story of 300 words or less and if it gets published in the next EarthOne newsletter, you'll win an iPod shuffle!

Here's how your story should start:

One day, we went to the credit union and I took out some of my savings. I'd been saving for months, and finally reached my saving goal. One of the coins they gave me was a \$2 coin with a very special shine...

Send your story to Sharon Rushby by 20th March 2009 at the address on the front.

Good luck!

The stories will be judged on imagination and creativity. The judges' decision is final. The winner's story may be slightly edited when published.

