

Summer gardening tips

Kōanga is truly underway as things in the māra (including weeds) are starting to take off. It's also a very exciting time as Labour Weekend signals the start of the summer veggie planting season – tomatoes, zucchinis, cucumber, peppers, eggplants, pumpkins and beans.

Although we can still expect a bit more wet spring weather, it's good to prepare for the dry summer months ahead by thinking about how to retain water in the soil. You can do this by covering the ground through interplanting big leafy low crops among taller plants, adding herbs and flowers between our crops, or mulching with pea straw, grass clippings or cut weeds. Mulching also helps keep the weeds down so it's a win-win. Water as early in the morning as possible to prevent evaporation and aim to water the soil/roots rather than the plant itself.

If you aren't composting already, now is a great time to start! It's the perfect way to recycle all the nutrients from your food scraps and garden waste back into the garden to help fertilise your veggies. Plus avoid sending it to landfill and creating nasty greenhouse gas.



When you're adding to a compost bin or pile, make sure you balance the 'greens' (nitrogen-rich materials like fruit scraps and grass clippings) with 'browns' (carbon-rich materials like dried leaves and cardboard). This ensures the compost microbes have everything they need for a healthy diet.



Cut up any larger pieces of veggies, fruit, bread etc to help them break down faster, and avoid adding meat, dairy and oily foods (small amounts are okay) as they can attract pests and create odours.



Turning your compost regularly helps to aerate it which is also good for the microbes and helps prevent bad smells. You might need to turn it a couple of times before everything is fully decomposed and you have a dark, crumbly compost ready to be added to your garden.

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