



Community Garden Project

GREEN PZ NEWSLETTER

August 2009/3

“Get Growing in Kawerau”

Hi Friends of Green Pz (Pronounced peas!)

Although August is still officially winter, spring is creeping over our windowsills and the energy is just about right for an optimistic start to a new season. With the longer evenings and the welcome warmth of recent days (well some days) hopefully you will be getting that feeling to head out into the garden and be filled with the joys of the world. Yes truly?

It is time to start turning over a nice sunny spot on the lawn for a bit of the good life if you haven't already done so, or to resurrect last season's garden after reading the latest Kings Seed Catalogue. I always get a bit over-exuberant in the early days of August, just not being able to help myself sowing the first early vegetables, when really it is probably best left until the later part of the month or September. It is sort of like when you just have to buy a Boronia at the garden centre with its heavenly scent every year and every year you manage to kill it. You know how it goes but you just do it anyway.

What to sow, plant and do.



1. Sow

Under glass

- Red and brown onions, early lettuces, brassicas (like cabbage and cauli and broccoli), **miner's lettuce, corn salad, spinach and other hardy chinese greens.**
- Sweet peas lobelia, antirrhinum (snapdragon), carnation, calendula, alyssum, nemesia, viola, pansy

In the garden

- Early peas, Greenfeast and William Massey are both heavy cropping and early varieties.

2. Plant

- Parsley seedlings, brassicas, silverbeet, rocket, chinese greens hardy lettuces
- Second round of garlic and shallots

3. Do

- Prepare your beds by turning over that patch of lawn if you haven't already done so.
- Dig or double dig your established vege garden. (We have such light soil that it is rarely too wet to do this in Kawerau).
- Prepare and place cloches to warm up the soil if you have them
- Warm up the soil with a thick layer of mulch
- Prune your grapevines now before the sap rises
- Do your weeding before they take a foothold and overtake you.
- Control slugs and snails
- Divide up perennials and herbs
- Add lime and fertilizer to your soil
- Order special seeds from seed companies
- Feed strawberries and rhubarb
- Liquid feed leaves and soil with fish fertilizer compost tea and vermiliquid.



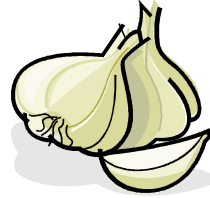
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- Place kumara tubers in boxes of sand and put in a warm place to grow kumara tupu
- Make compost
- Plant last deciduous fruit trees
- Copper spray dormant fruit trees
- Plant citrus
- Last of pruning



Food Crop of the month

Elephant Garlic

It's not too late to plant your garlic. If you have never tried this large variety (its actually a type of leek so doesn't have the same medicinal qualities as true garlic) then give it a go. It is milder than normal garlic and much easier to peel and is fabulous roasted. It sends up beautiful flower spikes but if you can bear to cut them off when they first appear your garlic will be twice the size.

The plant, if left alone, will spread into a clump with many flowering heads. These are often left in flower gardens as an ornamental and to discourage pests.' You plant Elephant Garlic in the period April to June, about 6 to 10 cm apart with the necks protruding. Pick a full sun situation that is free draining and keep the soil moist. The bulbs with their new cloves will be ready to harvest about December-January. If you have a pet Elephant avoid feeding it Elephant Garlic unless there is a need for humongous amounts of manure.

August Moon Calendar 2009

This month the full moon is on August 6 and new moon is on August 20. As a general rule, seeds sown just before or around the full moon germinate better and faster than those sown at the new moon. Don't plant or sow in the days leading up to the new moon as they can bolt quickly to seed.

1-3 August - Take cuttings from perennials you want to propagate. There is still time to do the last hardwood cuttings in sand before spring.

4-8 August - Turn over and fork the soil if it isn't too wet while the moon is in its full phase.

9-10 August - are good days for starting root crops if conditions allow. Put some early potatoes in buckets.

11-17 August - Don't plant anything. A time best for preparation so you can weed, hoe dig or plan on these days

20 August - Full moon. Sow hardy seeds before, or around the new moon.

27-31 August - The first quarter begins on 27th and this is the fertile time, so early peas and broad beans can go in now.



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What's happening in my patch?

Well, as I alluded to earlier, I have had a bit of a flurry of activity. I have dug in my green crops (one at a time) covered them with a sprinkling of compost of which I never seem to have enough, and applied some lime and fertilizer separately. It is as much as I can do to wait for a month until everything starts breaking down and I can rake the beds over to a finer tilth ready for planting. I have one bed in which I just had to plant something and put in the last of the garlic and shallots. I also put in some rocket and some overdone lettuce seedlings but I figure they will just be so glad to get out of their trays they will just burst forth with grateful new growth.

In the process of finding the forgotten lettuce seedlings I also found a humungous colony of over wintering snails. Despite knowing the terrible carnage these beasties wreak I just can't bring myself to squish them. An ice cream container of salted water does the trick but I can't bear to look after I drop them in.

I have had some fabulous cauliflowers to harvest. Although I have had to give them a good dipping in salted water to rid them of the creepy crawlies, they would have to have been my winter success story. Each day I check my sprouting potatoes watching for shoots. I am trying to do the moon calendar thing so on the 9th or 10th I am planning to put several sprouted early potatoes in buckets in a nice sunny spot and see how it goes.

I have also had the big rush about and shifted some trees and shrubs that I have had a change of heart on. Don't you hate it when that happens? I'm not one of those people that swap the furniture about so I guess it's OK. It rained just afterwards – how convenient!

Kawerau Garden Club News

The Garden Club members are a hardy bunch and not to be put off by some inclement weather under took a seed sowing exercise for their sales table at Woodskills. Grateful thanks to Helen for making available the Boardroom at KEA Centre as an alternative venue and to Jet and Ricky for their enthusiastic attendance.

Here is your gardening tip:

Comfrey added to your compost bin will aid decomposition. The leaves are rich in nitrogen, which assists in the breakdown of dry material. Also a layer of comfrey leaves under your potatoes will make them grow bigger & more flavourful.



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What's happening In August?

- **BNZ ladies night.** 7pm on 6 August at the Cozzie Club – All welcome. Amongst other fabulous things come and hear more about the Community Gardens Project.
- **Eastbay TimeBank** - www.wonacott.com/time_bank are hosting their first ever social for TimeBank members in your community. Meet in person the people you may be trading with, find out what they do, and share what you can do. New members welcome.

Meet at the CWI Hall on Lovelock Street in Whakatane, **Saturday 8th August from 1—3pm.** It's not *compulsory* to bring a plate, but if you do, you can earn a time credit for doing so! There will be a clothing FREECYCLING session on the day, where you can bring along items of clothing you no longer want, and perhaps find an exciting new item to add to your wardrobe. See you there!

Contact Kristy for more information on eastbaytimebank@gmail.com.

- **Green Screenings** - Earth Whisperers–Papatuanuku, Friday 14 August 2009 6.00 – 7.00pm

Pre - Green Screening Pot luck at Environment Bay of Plenty, Quay Street, Whakatane. Look for the sign on the side door. Please bring along a plate of finger food or a contribution of \$5. Come along and meet the Director Kathleen Gallagher and also Kay Baxter at a potluck pre-screening of the Earth Whisperers – Papatuanuku. To book phone Eastbay REAP on 3084098 or email Danielle@eastbayreap.org.nz. Bookings are essential.

- **GREENDRINKS**

The Sustainable Business Network BOP and the Eastern Bay Chamber of Commerce have teamed up to bring GreenDrinks to Whakatane. Eastern Bay GreenDrinks is open to anyone to attend, so come along and bring a friend, the purpose of GreenDrinks is to bring likeminded people together to share ideas, discuss and debate sustainability issues and topics. [Click here](#) for further details and to register. All welcome.

- **Koanga Institute**

Bob Corker and Kay Baxter are kicking off their range of self-reliant workshops in August. Check out <http://www.koanga.org.nz/workshops.html>

- **Database of Surplus Produce**

ACTIVITIES:

- Preparing to plant up in the KEA Nursery facility
- Kawerau Youth looking to develop a Community Garden in Kawerau
- Buildtec building worm farms, compost bins and renovating the KEA Nursery facility



Remember, contributions of all kinds are most gratefully received. Thank you to those who have donated items already. They are most useful and appreciated.

Rotary is putting together a database of those with fruit trees etc with surplus produce that can be distributed around the community. So let us know if you want to go on the list – rockwren15@xtra.co.nz.

This is a Community inspired project and your input is making "it" happen. Newsletter available on the KEA website. www.kea.org.nz If you want to subscribe contact KEA on 323 7377.

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