



May 2024
48 years of growth
1976-2024



Contact Details

Email;

doncastergardenclubinc@gmail.com

Web address;

www.doncastergardenclubaus.com

Upcoming meetings:

The Doncaster Garden Club Committee meeting will be held on
Wednesday 1st May 2024
8:00 pm at 11 Inglewood Close, Doncaster East.

The May meeting of the Doncaster Garden Club will be held on
Wednesday 8th May 2024.

At 8pm at the RSL Hall, corner Doncaster Road and Leeds Street, Doncaster East.

May Speaker

Matthew King from Ryset, - will speak on Pruning Tools

June Speaker

Kathleen Tants will speak on Pruning Roses

DGC May President's Report

Hello Gardeners All,

What a WET 19 days at the beginning of the month. Many of us have had a smidge under or over 160mm!! The rare sunny days are a blessing, but summer veggies have finished fast this year. Some of us are ripening **green tomatoes** inside. Do look up recipes for green tomato soup, green tomato bread i.e. loaf cake, and they can be cooked alone or with other veg for a delicious meal. I had 2 late **eggplants** ready to pick this last week with another still growing.

I planted some **garlic** a week ago and some are already showing their noses. There is more to plant as beds are made ready. I have just transplanted some Celtuce and Red Russian Kale (no they are not communists!) which I grew from seed.

A large group of us have taken **delivery of our bags of Lignite Humate** compliments of a very attractive discount from Vince of Clyde Compost. Our HUGE order more than impressed him and generated free delivery. We are welcome to do another order later in the year if people under ordered or didn't order. It is a once only additive as it lasts many years. One still needs to use normal fertilisers as L/H is a soil conditioner.

We had a boring grub (holes in the trunk and sawdust on the soil) in a couple of fruit trees. They were cut, put in the Council bin in smaller pieces and the stump grubbed. The soil is now being improved to grow veg for a year as the grub can pupate in the soil a long time. A tree from a different family will be planted there.

Trevor and I have our **Open Garden at end of April** and still ahead of me as I write. It will be very much a work in progress re chores for this time of year.

Wednesday 29th May is our Club DINE OUT at the Aveo Domaine Restaurant Victoria St. Parking on both sides of the street with a pedestrian crossing & lights. Prices have gone up a little and will be \$30 each with a fixed menu and alternating plates for the 2 main dishes and 2 desserts. Put your name on the clipboard to be passed around at the next meeting or ring Avril or myself.

Happy Gardening,
Pauline



D G C Life Members

Gerda van der Peet
Joanne Driver
Toni Myers
Francesca Kung

Ted Page
Ken Beer
Bev Turner

Doug Brewer
Elsie Carter
Gayle McCann



Supper Roster



Jan Bartlet,
Elsie Carter,
Reinhart Stratemeyer

+ another volunteer
please ring Pauline

May Competition Table

Margaret with her winning
'Strawberry Guavas'



To all our members who are

MUMS



Committee Members

2024

President:

Pauline Webb

Ph; 0409 063 060

Secretary:

Avril Clark

Ph; 0402478302

Vice President

Gladys Lim

Treasurer:

Dr Margaret Salter

Past President:

Doug Brewer

Fund Raising Co-ordinator

Anita Lizza

Newsletter:

Linda Speirs

Toni Myers

Esther Sim

Ray Brett

A reminder to those who have empty bottles and cans that can be recycled. Gladys has volunteered to return these for cash into our bank account. So far, she has deposited 129 bottles a total of \$12.90. Let's keep this going and a big thanks to Gladys.



Some suggestions from Pauline

- **cepa *aggoratum* - a bunching onion variety**

The growing plant is said to repel insects and moles (it works, no moles here! 🐛)

A spray made by pouring enough boiling water to cover 1kg of chopped unpeeled onions is said to increase the resistance of other plants to diseases and parasites.

Pauline suggests doing a Trial: Make a smaller quantity when one cuts up any onions for dinner - pour boiling water over them, then cook. One may have 2 for the price of 1.

- **Coffee Grounds as Fertiliser**

The Devil's Ivy, Peace Lilies, Christmas Cactus', Money Plants and Philodendron will all love coffee grounds or diluted liquid coffee.

If you steep used coffee grounds in water overnight, you can make liquid fertiliser and then water your plants with it OR Sprinkle coffee grounds around your plant or mix them in the soil before planting.

- **From Bioresource Technology Vol 84, issue 1.**

Plant growth tended to be increased by treatments of the plants with 50–500 mg/kg humic acids, but **often decreased significantly when the concentrations of humic acids derived in the container medium exceeded 500–1000 mg/kg**. These growth responses were most probably due to hormone-like activity of humic acids from the vermicompost's or could have been due to plant growth hormones adsorbed onto the humates.

- **Lignite Humate**

Pauline says Vince recommends using lignite humate at 5L per square metre or 1 bag to 4 sq metres. This falls within the guidelines of the above snippet of article that says 50/50 will over treat your soil to the detriment of plants.

- **Vegetable growing advice.**

Good advice for autumn veggie growing.

<https://sustainablemacleod.org.au/preparing-a-spring-summer-or-autumn-winter-vegie-garden/#autumn-winter>

- **Website Development**

1. **Warehouse facility** Todd Yu has secured warehouse facilities for the Club: (i) Year 1 April 2024 to March 2025 FREE (ii) Year 2 potentially \$5 to \$10 per month Invoices to be settled via Todd as the warehouse facility is connected to his account. Annually, Todd will clean the warehouse to ensure there are no additional charges.

2. **2024 Calendar of events** Action required: Dr Margaret M Salter to obtain from Pauline Webb (President) and forward to Todd for upload.

3. **2024 Newsletters** Action required: Dr Margaret M Salter to liaise with the Club President to ensure the final version is provided to Todd for upload.

4. **Gallery** All members can upload images from their phones – what an absolute satisfying experience for all Club members. Todd Yu will regularly monitor uploads to ensure appropriateness of content.

- **Everyone has aphids at present so this might be helpful.**

Natural Remedies to Eliminate Aphids and Scale Insects

Neem Oil: An effective all-natural insecticide, neem oil disrupts the life cycle of aphids and scale insects without harming beneficial insects. Mix neem oil with water and a mild soap (as an emulsifier) in a spray bottle and apply it to affected areas of the plant every few days until the pests are gone.

Insecticidal Soap: You can purchase ready-made insecticidal soaps or make your own by mixing a few tablespoons of pure liquid soap (not detergent) in a quart of water. Spray directly on both aphids and scales to break down their protective layers and dehydrate them.

Diatomaceous Earth: This is a powder made from the fossilized remains of marine phytoplankton. Sprinkle it around the base of your plants. When insects crawl over it, the sharp edges of the powder cut through their protective coverings, causing them to dehydrate and die.

Garlic or Chili Spray: Both garlic and chili are natural repellents for pests due to their strong scents and potentially irritating properties. Blend a few cloves of garlic or some hot chilies with water, strain, and spray onto the affected plants to deter pests.

Alcohol Spray: Using a solution of rubbing alcohol and water can be effective, especially for scale insects. Apply with a cotton ball directly onto the pests or spray lightly on infested areas.

Our April Speaker

Kat Lavers presented us with a slide show as she spoke on her Permaculture Kitchen Garden and how she built it gradually from poor sandy soil to the productive fruit and veggie patch it is now often **composting the free plane tree leaves** that grow in the street. Her larger trees shade and cool the house in summer.

She makes **Bucket Wicking Pots** from free 20L buckets she acquires and drills a hole 5cm above the base so excess water drains away.

CARROTS: grow better for her in the middle of the bed where they can be kept evenly moist with rocker/arugula on the drier edges.

By **SAVING HER OWN SEED** Kat says she has better quality seed than most bought ones.

Purslane, Amaranth and Choko are tasty out of favour veggies which grow easily choko are at their sweetest when picked at 100mm.

Her **EDIBLE WEEDS** are allowed to go to seed, but other weeds are pulled before seeding.

QUAIL are great for egg production and meat if one chooses to eat them.

WORM WEE: dilute 1 part to 3 of water. All 'teas' do not replenish fibre in soil or its quality.

EPA VICTORIA: Do soil testing for mineral contamination. Fungi destroy some soil contaminants. **Queensland Fruit Fly** like the hotter drier weather.



What to Plant in May in Melbourne

FRUIT & VEGETABLES

Beetroot	Swede
Broad Bean	Turnip
Cabbage	
Carrot	
Cauliflower	
Chinese Cabbage	
Citrus	
Shallot	
Silver beet	
Spinach	
Spring Onion	



HERBS

Chives
Coriander
Garlic
Lemongrass
Marjoram
Mint
Oregano
Parsley
Rosemary
Shallots
Tarragon

FLOWERS

Alyssum
Cineraria
Cornflower
Cyclamen
English daisy
Lobelia
Lupin
Pansy
Polyanthus
Primula
Snapdragon

Stock
Sweet Pea
Viola



Supporters and Sponsors

Butcher

Brendan's Butcher
Jackson Court
(Next to fruit shop)

SEEDS & PLENTY

15% discount when you key the
Discount Code DGCseeds

The discount will be applied to
the invoice at the end.



Mensland

- 39 The Mall,
Heidelberg West



aveo

aveo.com.au



Ryset

The Committee
each have a Ryset
catalogue and an
online pricelist to
share with
members.

(Thousands of
products) The Club
receives wholesale
prices which are
usually the retail
price discounted by
60-70%. Do ask to
borrow the
catalogue.



1. Please support our supporters, let them know you are a member of DGC and that we value them.