

Permaculture Cairns News

November Newsletter



Care for the Earth, Care for people, Fair share the excess
Permaculture Cairns Incorporated 2007 Web Site: www.permaculturecairns.org.au

It is time for our Xmas Celebration

Come join us to explore what happened during 2023, the good the bad and anything else you like.

DATE: Saturday night 6pm on 25th November

Venue to be decided, looking for Venue suggestions Please????

Email: info@permaculturecairns.org.au

The Fermentation Workshop was a great success, we will have to do that again. It was well attended and everyone had a enjoyable and productive day and gleaned some fermenting information.

Lunch was good too!!

NOTE: For some really good advice on Fermenting check out Adriana on her You Tube Channel - Clean Food Living, she has all the technical info plus lots of easy recipes for all sorts of Ferments.

In the Tropical Garden in November

We have been fortunate this past month with very cool mornings, time to the gardening before it heats up.

In November shade will be essential. Each year I plant a Pigeon Pea in the garden area to create shade over the raised beds. I prune it to one stem and cut the growing point to make it bush out, then prune it to cast shade over the beds. Works for me.

November is usually hot and humid, but you never can predict. The humidity usually causes tomatoes to stop pollinating but if there are on now there will be tomatoes to eat. A little shade helps sometimes, especially with cherry tomatoes and Thai Pink tomatoes.

Veggie Patch is going great guns. Womb bok, Bok choy, 2 Rocket, 3 types of Lettuce, cabbage, tomatoes, capsicum, egg plant, bunching shallots, garlic chives, the Tropical Timor Lettuce, Amaranth, all producing well. Although the Garlic is struggling. The Green Manure patch is about to be chopped, I planted 2 chia varieties, sorghum, millet, beans, bok choy, coriander, and some bird seed with buckwheat and lots of other seeds. Have used Womb Bok to make Kim chi along with other plants from the garden.

I will keep seeding, lettuce, bok choy, rocket, pumpkin, watermelon, cucumbers, trombone zucchini, snake beans, corn. I grow the lettuce, bok choy and rocket under 60% shade cloth they seem to like it there.

What to do in November in the Garden: - Composting. Clean out the garden beds, make compost in everything you can find. A Wire ring held in place with a couple of star pickets works well. Large pieces of sticks that will break down over 6 months can go into the heap as well as chunks of banana trunks, – the big heap has been added to again as I have had a few banana trees to deal with. The heap was constructed with a 150mm flexible plastic drainage pipe (one that expands as it is pulled out) inserted in a spiral as I built the heap, this allows air to enter the heap throughout. I don't turn this heap and can take 4 to 6 months to be ready. The final product is humus, it is black, moist smells great and sticky with glomalin and makes plants grow beautifully. Give it a go, it's worth it.

What to plant now –Snake Beans, Pop Corn, Corn, Darwin lettuce and other loose leaf lettuce types, rocket, mustards, bok choy, cucumbers, snake beans pumpkin, trombone zucchini, sweet potato, ginger, turmeric, galangal, taro, cocoyam, pigeon pea, comfrey, garlic chives, bunching shallots, radish, Okinawa and Sambung greens, Brazilian spinach, Kang kong.

Flowers: Sunflowers, cosmos, marigold, zinnia, pentas, begonias, coleus, impatiens, Sun Jewels.

Grow clean, nutrient rich food all year to keep healthy.

Cheers

Carol