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| **GREENS~LEAVES****Dunedin Vegetable Growers Club Newsletter** **January 2021** | **Meetings: 1st Wednesday** of the month, 7pm**Venue:** St Kilda Bowling Club, 33 Royal Crescent, St Kilda**Membership:** Helen Flockton (455 1816) helen.flockton6@re.com **Club Email:** dvgcnz@gmail.com **Website:** <http://dvgc.co.nz/>**Bank Account #** 030905051590600(Please include your name as a reference) |
| **Next Club Meeting:** Wednesday, 6th January 2021**Q & A:** Jim**Club Talk:** Introduction to the new venue**Guest speaker:** Jim Baszika – Mulching our gardens **Garden visit:** Margaret Scott |
|  | **Competition for January:**Best Summer vegetable and/or fruitWinner for silverbeet in a bucket:Gail Kirk | **Things to look forward to in January**Garden visitFruit tree workshop |

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the New Year!

Here is an announcement of our new venue location and the garden visit in January, a planting guide and an article about garden health. We inform when subscriptions are due and of a change to the trading table. We also ask you to consider becoming a member of our DVGC committee.

**From this January 2021 we hold our monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at:**

Caversham Baptist Church, 239 South Road, Caversham (where we have midwinter dinners) – in the heart of Caversham in the brick building on the corner of Surrey Street and South Road. There is plenty of room for parking on site and on the streets around the church, and a ramp makes access easy for those who have a bit of trouble getting about or wheeling in materials.

**Garden Tasks for January** – David

Sow seeds of: Asian Vegetables, Lettuce, Radish, Silverbeet, Spinach and Turnip.

Almost too late for seeds of: Carrot, Kohlrabi and Peas.

Plant Seedlings of: Asian Vegetables,) Sprouting Brocolli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower and Heading Brocolli, Celery, Celeriac, Lettuce and Silverbeet.

Almost too late for seedlings of: Leeks.

Hint: If you would like to get the most potatoes possible it has been shown that the total number of tubers will be increased if phosphate is applied. But how to apply it and when? Just before the tubers start to form. So foliar feed with phosphate as flowering stops.

Here are some good natural sources of phosphate:

**Rabbit, duck and chicken manure** - Manures can be added to the soil before or at planting time, depending on how aged they are. You can apply a foliar manure compost tea as above.

**Bone meal** - Add some over top of the soil covering the potato seed when you plant it, so that it is dispersed into the soil when it rains to give lasting nutrition to your crop.



**Garden health** – Sue Novell

This coming year my wish is to increase the health of my garden and produce.

I found some gardening techniques that help to restore degraded soil biodiversity and rebuild soil organic matter:

**Compost**: To restore nutrients in the soil in an extremely affordable way compost all your kitchen scraps, garden waste and organic matter and other suitable materials. It will do wonders.

**Let weeds be:** They are plants too. Some are edible and beneficial. Any plants that threaten to overtake your produce, cut off at base and use as mulch, otherwise leave what is not bothersome. Put nasty weeds in a sack and leave to turn into rich soil over time.

**Plant densely:** Plants do not need lots of empty space between them. When close together they shade the ground and keep weeds out.

**Covercrop**: Put in outside of the main growing season to replenish the soil. Red clover for instance increases nitrogen levels that have been used and helps make clay soils friable.

**Perennials**: increase the plants that thrive year after year in the same place in your garden, like perennial leeks, strawberries, rhubarb, chives, etc. This results in minimal soil disturbance.

**Add compost and mulch:** Every planting season layer on compost and any mulch onto your garden. It nourishes the plants and increases the amount of carbon matter. This helps to retain moisture in your soil by keeping the soil structure open to let in air and water.

**Trading Table** – Dennis Dorney

At the last Club meeting of Dec 14th there was no opportunity to mention a small change in the Club program as from our new venue and meeting date. I will not have my little corner of our Trading table so if you want lime, compost tea or packets of seeds please pay Carol for those items and she will reimburse me later.

 Because of the unwieldy nature of horse manure, it will be necessary to order bags in advance from me and I will bring to the meetings only as much horse manure as has been ordered. I can be contacted by phone 4876043 (message m/c attached) or email by ddorney1940@gmail.com

**Volunteers for committee wanted**

Please consider being part of the committee team. Your input is valued.

**2021 Subscriptions**

In the New Year it is time to pay the 2021 subscription of $15 – either by direct credit to the DVGC bank account (see newsletter heading) or at welcome desk at our meeting in January, February or March. If you do not pay by March 31st we will assume that you wish to terminate your membership – we will take you off the newsletter email list and you will no longer receive the newsletter.

**Fruit tree workshop**

We now have the full number of participants for the 16th January workshop. Meeting place is 6 McLachlan St., Waitati (Jason Ross, Habitate, 027 2273004).