



GREENS~LEAVES

Dunedin Vegetable Growers Club Newsletter.
September 2018

Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm

Venue: St Kilda Bowling Club,
33 Royal Crescent, St Kilda

Membership: Heather Wilson (4764607)

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Club Email: dvgcnz@gmail.com

Website: <http://dvgc.co.nz/>

Bank Account # 030905051590600

(Please include your name as a reference)

Next Club Meeting: Monday 10th September

Q & A: David

Club Talk: David on brussel sprouts

Guest Speaker: Dennis Enright on Biochar

Garden Visit: NEV Community Garden, behind NEV Normal Primary School. Sunday Sept 16th from 1pm. Members can bring gardening gloves and hand tools if they want to do some work.... afternoon tea is at 3pm.



Vegetable competition winner

Congratulations to Marion Thomas for her parsnip and Alan Savell for his leek

Competition for September

Any one brassica

Things to look forward to in October

Jason Ross

Margaret Dodds on growing kumuras

Hello Everyone

It was good to see such a good turnout at the August meeting after 2 months break. I'm sure there will be more at the September meeting as the growing season starts to kick off. I've already got fruit blossoms (wake up and do your thing bees). Thanks to those people who brought seeds to share at the last meeting.

Potato in a bucket competition.

There are still potatoes to be taken at the September club meeting so you can join in our blue ribbon growing competition. Grow in a 10 litre (max) bucket. There will be a prize for the largest combined weight and a prize for the heaviest single potato. Weigh in will occur during our December meeting.

Squash growing competition

Pick up a Baby Bear squash seed for our May squash growing competition. There will be a prize for the heaviest Baby Bear squash along with a prize for the best of any squash.



Pumpkin Baby Bear.

Botanical Name:

Cucurbita pepo

The

perfect **mini** pumpkin.

Deep orange 600g to 1 kg fruits with slender, sturdy, easy to grip handles, they are very appealing to children. In addition to its decorative use, the flesh is good for pies and the semi hull-less seeds are good for toasted snacks. The yield potential is high and the fruits have very good storage qualities. Matures 110 days from transplant.

Trading table

The trading table will start to get very busy again as Spring approaches. So, please bring your own bags to take your purchases home, come early to make your purchases if you can't wait until supper time, and bring your small money to use.

A visit to Ray Wade's garden. By Ruth Bayne

On Saturday 18th August I and about 25 other DVGC members met at Ray Wade's home to view his veg and fruit garden. Ray has had a lot of gardening experience throughout his life, and he won the DVGC "Gardener of the year" award last year, so I was keen to find out his secrets for gardening in Dunedin's temperate climate and on our heavy clay soils.

Ray's garden proved to be a very steep north west facing terraced hillside running up behind his house which was intensively planted out. There was a wonderful view from the top of his section and it was pleasantly warm in the winter sunshine. The favourable aspect means that he had rhubarb growing all through the winter without dying back. Within his garden Ray has discovered different microclimates – he grew his broad beans in a different spot from usual this year only to find them checked in their growth as they were shaded by the house.

Ray has vegs and salad greens ready to eat, even though it is still winter, including rocket and the most enormous fennel bulbs. Ray showed us how he had carefully cut away the first bulbs on his fennel plants and left the roots to sprout many new shoots which then grew into magnificent bulbs also. Ray seems to be growing something of everything including soft fruit such as gooseberries and thornless blackberries.

Ray shared some of his tricks for adding fertility and reducing the amount of work required in his garden. He trenches his kitchen scraps directly into the garden and then grows directly into that spot – apparently this was the secret to his huge fennel bulbs. In his glass house Ray grows a cover crop over the winter, digs it in, and replants immediately with spinach in the late winter/spring.

Ray likes a challenge and he is pushing the boundaries for growing in Dunedin by planting citrus (lemon and lime) outside in the shelter of a fence and covered with frost cloth. As an experiment at the sheltered top of his section in full sun Ray is trying out a passionfruit.

I learnt a lot from Ray's explanations of how he grows his fruit and vegs and I discovered the secret to his growing success which I think comes

down to two things: attention to detail and sheer hard work. There is a street light which would illuminate Ray's veg garden at night, so I suspect that he may work in his garden throughout the day and on into the night also.

Thank you Ray for the opportunity to visit and see what you are doing in your garden and for your hospitality also.



Rule change proposals

The committee feels there is a need to make amendments to a few of the club rules. These proposed changes are shown below and will be voted on by the club members during a special general meeting (as part of our regular club meeting) **in November**.

Pursuant to Rule 15 "Change of Rules" the members are asked to vote on the following.

Rule 13: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:

Committee members shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Club, and apart from the Secretary and Treasurer, whose terms of office are unlimited, shall serve no more than three years in any one office. Nominations for members for the Committee shall be in writing and handed to the Secretary no later than the February general meeting. Nomination forms must be signed by the proposers, seconders and nominees, and must all be financial members of the Club. Only financial members of the Club are entitled to vote.

Explanation: The committee members will choose the officers.

Rule 17. LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Delete. Any Club member may nominate another Club member for Life membership and this will be voted on as a Club. Life members may come to all committee meetings and be part of the discussions.

Explanation: Life membership is unnecessary and members can be honoured in other ways
 Rule 18. (New) APOLOGIES: All apologies at annual or general meetings must be in writing, and handed to the Secretary no later than a month before the meeting.

Explanation: An attempt to reduce the time taken with annual or special general meetings and leave more time for the club meeting.

Rule 19: (New): PERSONAL INFORMATION: The club will only use the personal information supplied by its members for club related purposes. The club will not share this personal information with others and only the committee members will have access to it.

Explanation: Club members are entitled to privacy.

September 2018 Planting now:

Sow seeds of: bok choy, beetroot, carrots, kohlrabi, leeks, peas, silverbeet, spring onions, tomatoes (indoors in trays).

Plant seedlings of: asparagus, cabbages, broccoli, cauliflowers, celery, leeks, lettuces, onions, potatoes (protect from frosts), and salad greens.

Planting by the Moon (From NZ Gardener, 2018 Garden Diary)

1-5 Sept – This month begins in a barren phase.

Don't sow or transplant seedlings.

6-7 Sept – Sow root, corm and bulb crops; such as shallots, potatoes, gladioli and parsnips.

8-13 Sept – Use fork and spade to prepare beds for the warmer weather and fertile period approaching. Don't walk on heavy wet soils.

14-21 Sept – It is a hive of activity in the garden.

Sow all edible leafy crops into your well-worked soils; and pop some peas in too.

22-23 Sept – Feed young seedlings generously with liquid manure.

24-27 Sept – Leave off seed sowing for now.

Cultivate instead.

28-29 Sept – Sow seeds of root crops: try parsnips mixed with sand. 30 Sept – Prune any fruit trees that missed out last month.



DHS Spring Show 2018

from Sat Sept 22 to Sun Sept 23rd

Deliver: Fri 6-9pm or before 10am Sat prior to Show at Forbury Park Racing Club

Contact to notify entries.

Sue Bagley Ph 488 4054 by 8pm, Wed prior

Email: brian.bagley@clear.net.nz

| Spring 2018 | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------|---------|
| Category | Vegetable Schedule | Qty | Variety |
| 501 | Tray of Produce | 5 | |
| 502 | Cabbage | 1 | |
| 503 | Broccoli or Cauliflower | 1 | |
| 504 | Lettuce | 1 | |
| 505 | Chard /silverbeet | 1 | |
| 506 | Leeks | 2 | |
| 507 | Radish | 3 | |
| 508 | Rhubarb | 3 stalks | |
| 509 | Potato, seed white | 3 | |
| 510 | Potato, seed coloured | 1 | |
| 511 | Not in Schedule | 1 | |