

ROGI News

ROGI meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday night of the month, with doors opening at 6.15pm. Members can visit the plant table, seed bank, library and stalls or just have a chat before the meeting. Please be seated by 7pm ready for the proceedings.

Bayside Community Church
Cnr McDonald Rd & Macarthur St
ALEXANDRA HILLS

Don't forget:

- Pay your membership dues (only fully paid members may attend)
- Observe social distancing
- BYO mug if you want coffee/tea
- There will be no supper
- Swap and share has resumed
- ROGI Rewards has resumed
- Bring a basket/box/bag for your purchases
- Return washed seedling pots
- Any questions for Plant Clinic

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Winged bean (*Psophocarpus tetragonolobus*), aka the goa/four-angled/princess/asparagus bean is a tropical herbaceous legume plant. Packed with protein, it is a disease-resistant, hardy vine that needs a trellis. ROGI Seed Savers are growing this to save for our Seed Bank—check out our progress on p.13. Look for the seeds next summer!

Jill's Jottings

It seems that most people in our climate tend to not grow a lot of crops during summertime. It's just too darn hot to be bothered!

However, there are some annual plants that thrive, and they are what the tenacious gardeners are busily harvesting now: rosellas, snake beans, winged beans, okra, sweet corn, pumpkin, Malabar spinach, sunflower, and mung beans to name several. Some perennials bearing now are passionfruit, fig, acerola, dragon fruit, raspberries and persimmon. So it is still possible to be eating quite a lot out of your garden at this time of the year.

The good news is that now is also the time to prepare your gardens (your soil, and your trellises, if needed) for our prime growing season. If you're still unsure what to do in preparation or even what to grow, why not go to our library for inspiration and information? You can even browse the books online prior to our ROGI meeting <https://www.rogi.com.au/uploads/Category.6.02.21.pdf>. Some popular titles that I have read and can recommend are: *Successful Gardening in Warm Climates* by Annette McFarlane, *New Organic Gardener* by Tim Marshall, *Organic Gardening* by Peter Bennett, *Organic Vegetable Gardening* by Annette McFarlane, *Practical Australian Gardener* by Peter Cundall (some handy tips and ideas, although he gardens in a very different climate), *Easy Organic Gardening and Moon Planting* by Lyn Bagnall, and *Permaculture Home Garden* by Linda Woodrow. There are many more on a large range of topics.

Have a look at page 17 to see what you can sow this and next month, buy your seeds (or get free seeds from our Seed Savers collection – tomatoes and lettuce laid on!), do your planning, prepare your soil and get growing once the weather moderates a bit.

It has been heartening to see that many of you have taken up the opportunity to join TEAM APP. This will simplify informing you of upcoming ROGI happenings and enable you to book into (and pay for, if appropriate) various ROGI events such as Garden Visits, Field Trips and workshops. It will be easier for you (you won't miss out because you didn't put your name on the list at the meeting) and it will be easier for your committee. Remember, committee members joined ROGI to improve their organic growing skills, and they would like to be able to spend more time doing just that, and less time doing committee stuff! One day, you may be a committee member, and will appreciate that it has become rather streamlined!

May your garden flourish and your harvest dreams come to fruition.

Jill Nixon, ROGI President



Above: Okra
Above left: Willamette raspberries
Below left: Acerola cherry

Coming Events

MARCH	Thursday 11	ROGI Meeting
	Sunday 21	Garden Visit (see p. 14)
APRIL	Thursday 8	ROGI Meeting
	Sunday 11	Oaklands St Workshop (see p. 15)
	Sunday 18	Field Trip (see p. 14)
	Tuesday 20	Seed Savers Meeting (see p. 13)
	Friday 23	Field Trip (see p. 14)

Membership Information

- Team App** (preferred method of payment)
Please click here: https://www.teamapp.com/user_session/new?_detail=v1
- Direct Deposit** to BSB 633 000, Account Number 136 137 296
Bendigo Community Bank Victoria Point
Bendigo Community Bank Wynnum-Manly
N.B. Reference: Please include deposit ID: YOUR NAME MEMB
- Cheques** made payable to Redland Organic Growers Inc.
Pay at meeting or by post to:
Redland Organic Growers Incorporated
PO Box 1257, Cleveland. Qld. 4163.

Member Category	Members Renewing For 2021	New member/s joining in...			
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct 21-Dec 22
Single	\$30	\$30	\$22.50	\$15	\$37.50
Family*	\$50	\$50	\$37.50	\$25	\$62.50
Pensioner Single**	\$20	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$25
Pensioner Couple**	\$30	\$30	\$22.50	\$15	\$37.50

Family - two (2) adults residing at the same address and their children under eighteen (18) years of age.

** Please provide evidence of **pensioner** status to claim discount

March Meeting

Native bees and Honey bees

Russell Zabel started honey-bee-keeping at eight. By 17, he had 90 colonies, plus the odd native bee colony. His interest in native bees was piqued by a 1988 newspaper article about splitting native bee colonies in a box.

He and Janine have lived and worked in remote areas helping local aborigines understand native bees. The Zabels currently manage over 950 native bee colonies (some in ROGI members' gardens), as well as 200 colonies of honey bees.

Russell and Janine have now commenced beekeeping workshops at their property at Hatton Vale.

Come along and hear about the benefits to your food garden when you attract bees into your territory.



At our meetings, you're welcome to bring your gardening problems to the Plant Clinic and we'll see if someone can help (see page 16 for more details). The usual attractions will be there—the well-stocked library, the seed bank and seedlings (at bargain prices) - plus for sale are local honey, organic gardening inputs and more.

To ensure that we comply with COVID-19 regulations and our COVID-safe plan, only ROGI members may attend. No visitors until further notice. To find out how to join ROGI, go to the MEMBERSHIP tab on our website, www.rogi.com.au.

Composting Mulch

Andrew Stovell has been an arborist for 25 years and a consulting arborist for 13 years. He has a small company and acreage at Redland Bay. He has been making composting mulch for over 10 years, his aim being to increase soil biology for trees, shrubs and even vegetables. Without this, soil is not active, will not be healthy and have minerals and elements that can be transferred. One of the advantages he has for making his composting mulch is that he has a 6 million litre dam, so he very rarely runs out of water for his mulch composition.

He makes three types of composting mulch—Bio Boost, which takes four months to make; a blended mix (mostly palms); and Black Gold, which takes at least a year to compost down. In a month, he produces 300-400 cubic metres of mulch, with most of this going to Southbank Gardens. After eight years of using it they have been able to stop applying fertiliser to their gardens.

At this point, Andrew asked for questions from the audience, here is an account:

- **What is the difference between Andrew's composted mulch and those from landscape centres?** His mulch has been composted and gone above 60°C, which means all of the bad things which could be transferred to your garden have been killed. Having undergone the composting process, they also won't become hydrophobic (repel water), which is what fresh wood chips will do.
- **Can I leave a pile of woodchips for a long time (say a year) in my yard, and get the same result as you?** Perhaps, if you looked after it the same way. Most of Andrew's mulch is in 300m rows, 3-8m wide x 20m long. This creates environments within the mulch itself. There are bacterial and fungal blooms throughout the mulch. Every 3-4 weeks it is turned over. Water is also the key, he waters every 2-3 days unless it rains. You don't want it too wet though.

- **Why are you referring to this as mulch and not compost?** It sounds like a similar process. It is a composting mulch. Woodchips have the added benefit of fungal growth.
- **Can the composting mulch be used to make my own potting mix?** Yes. But you'll have to add vermiculite or sand.
- **Does using woodchips encourage white ants?** Most organic matter will have white ants foraging through it, it's too loose to make a nest in. They will eat it, which is what you want them to do.
- **Is there a particular plant species you should avoid chipping, e.g. the frangipani, which has poisonous sap?** Yes, it is still okay to woodchip—just leave it, turn it and let it break down, then it can be used to make a garden.
- **When you make your mulch, what species of plant do you use?** Trees, some palms (they're in the blended mulch). Even Camphor laurel can be used, it all gets broken down.
- **What is the pH of your mulches? Is it a bit on the acidic side?** It's about 5.5-6. Most home composting using foliage, weeds and herbs are more alkaline and bacterial dominated. What you're using is a forest mulch and it is more suited to trees. There is always an association in the soil between the roots, and bacterial fungi.
- **What is the proportion of wood as opposed to leaves, fruit and flowers in your mulch?** About 5%.
- **Do you mulch a lot of palm trees?** Yes, it makes an interesting mulch—it has more bacteria, is very high in sugars and breaks down quite quickly. Sold as a blended mulch.
- **What is the water retention percentage by using mulch?** It depends on how thick you put it. Andrew recommends using at least 10cm thick for your gardens. The top 2.5cm will become like a blanket, cooling the areas underneath. The bottom 6.5cm will still keep composting and breaking down.
- **I can't see my soil, it's all vegetation and very dense, with a lot of trees. I am continually watering—how can I mulch it?** Andrew recommends making a channel (path) through it and maintaining it so you can service the area.

By Ann Roffey

Fruit Spotting Bug

By Greg Lindner

Beautiful but oh so destructive

It's guilty of giving other bugs a bad name. I found this bug on one of my citrus trees, so I used Google Lens on my phone and discovered it is a Fruit Spotting Bug. The photo on the right shows FSB in the nymph stage.

There are two types of FSB, but the average person cannot tell the difference. It also has a relative called the Banana Spotting Bug but that is more prevalent north of Nambour. Like the SEQ fruit fly, FSB are native to Australia.

Up to 22 different crops can be affected - most significantly avocado, macadamia, custard apple, lychee, passionfruit, paw paws, citrus and mango. Other crops that can suffer FSB damage include grape, fig, longan, carambola, stone fruit, cashew, pecan, mangosteen, kiwi fruit, cucurbits, pistachio, persimmon, lemon aspen, rambutan, tamarillo, raspberry, blueberry and almond. FSB is the most significant pest of macadamias. They feed on fruit, flowers and tender new shoots of fruit-bearing plants and trees.



Fig.1: Fruit Spotting Bug, nymph stage

The Damage They Cause

- Pawpaw trees die from the top – sometimes they recover, sometimes they don't (Figure 2).
- Sting new growth on trees (Figure 3).
- Causes early fruit drop (Figure 4).
- Causes marks on more developed fruit (Figure 5-7).
- Causes damage to the actual flowers.

This is just a sample of the destruction these bugs can cause.

For years I have struggled to grow paw paws. I knew there was a bug that could come out of the bushland nearby and sting the tree, but I had never before actually seen the bug until now.

FSB, Fruit Fly or Something Else?

Fruit fly and some other bugs like Stink Bugs are so well known that when damage appears on fruit it is easy, especially for anyone not familiar with the FSB to blame these well known bugs. FSB don't lay eggs in fruit, so if you find larvae wriggling around in the fruit, it is more likely fruit fly. However, sometimes FSB does the initial damage and then fruit fly take advantage of the sting site.



Fig.2: Pawpaw dieback from FSB



Fig.3: Custard apple dieback of new growth



Fig.4: Avocado early fruit drop

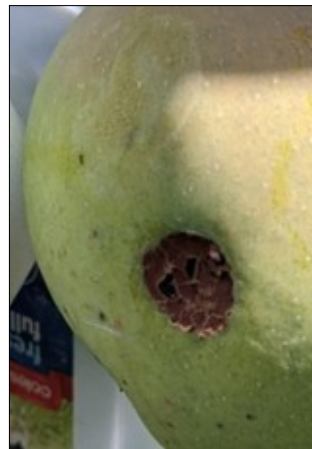


Fig.5: Mango fruit damage



Fig.6: Avocado fruit damage

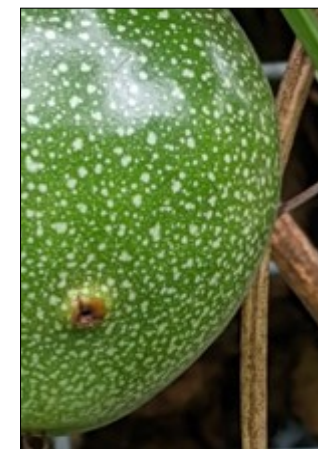


Fig.7: Passionfruit fruit damage

Fruit Spotting Bug (continued)

FSB Life Cycle

FSB commence as eggs and the bug is present virtually all year round but most prolific during the warmer months of the year. Their life cycle has seven stages from eggs to adult. The life cycle speeds up with an increase in temperature – a full life cycle ranges from 63 days at 20° while only 41 days at 30°. Therefore during spring and autumn there will be one generation of FSB, while in summer there will be two generations. The adults alive at the end of autumn will survive the winter ready to recommence the cycle in spring.



Early nymph stage



Later nymph stage



Adult Fruit spotting bug

Detecting FSB

Detecting FSB often begins with unexplained damage to new growth, flowers, fruit and especially early fruit drop of immature crops. Consider FSB as a possible cause.

If you live near bushland there is a good chance you will be affected by FSB. Their eggs have been found on Eucalyptus tree leaves, but not exclusively.

FSB eggs are laid on leaf surfaces, fruit, bark etc – sometimes in groups, sometimes in ones and twos. Therefore they can be difficult to observe. The nymphs are an orange colour and this makes them more easily seen, however they are shy and can easily be missed. Furthermore, they love to congregate in the tops of trees. So if your trees are more than a few metres high, there is a good chance you won't see them unless you are lucky to

catch one lower down. Observation is the key. There is a pheromone trap available for one type of FSB, but is ineffective for the other type, so really the trap is not a good way to determine if FSB is present and causing your problems.

FSB is often more prevalent when there is a lot of rain, so that is a cue to be even more vigilant.

Control Options

Now we come to the hard part, especially if you want to use organic methods. While there has been a lot of research into fruit fly control, research into FSB is on-going and so far there are no clear cut methods of control.

Chemical Sprays are available but they are not organic and are non-selective, as they kill the good bugs as well. It is not a strategy suitable for the home gardener and even for commercial growers; it is not a long term strategy as bugs will eventually become resistant.

Organic Sprays – some research has been done using pyrethrum, which is approved for organic use. Some laboratory tests have shown effective control rates but field tests haven't been so successful because pyrethrum does not have any residual effect on the bugs. It should be noted that pyrethrum also can kill good bugs, so care should be used if trialling this solution.

Netting – While netting (or bagging) is an excellent way to control fruit fly, it is not suitable for FSB. Crops are in danger from fruit fly once the flower has been pollinated and the fruit begins to form. The fruit can then be netted. The problem with FSB is the trees and flowers are subject to attack and early netting would inhibit pollination of the flower and subsequently any possible fruit.

Biological Controls

There has been some research done using the Anastatus Wasp as they attack FSB eggs and have proven to be quite effective. I have contacted Bioresources and Bugs for Bugs to discover if the Anastatus Wasp solution is available to the backyard grower – it is not!

Fruit Spotting Bug (continued)

Macadamia nuts are subject to FSB and the Macadamia Nut Borer. The MacTriX wasp has proven very effective for the Macadamia Nut Borer but is not a solution for the FSB.

Bugs that are predators of FSB are:

Natural enemies of FSB include **ants**, especially the green tree ants, **spiders** *Ocrisoma* sp., **lacewings** (green and brown, but especially **brown lacewings**), birds, **micro bats**, even **frogs** while predatory bugs such as **assassin bugs** and **predatory shield bugs** are likely to feed on FSB nymphs. Of course, assassin bugs will also predate on bees and the predatory shield bug is not to be confused with the shield bugs (stink bugs) often found on citrus.

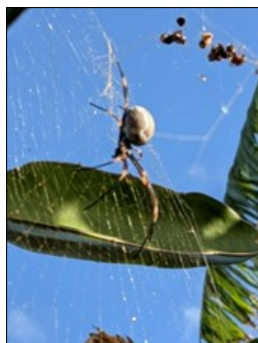
The stink bugs found on citrus feed on plant material while the predatory shield bug predate on other bugs. I haven't been able to find out if oil sprays used to control stink bugs in the early stages of their development also kills the predatory shield bug.

If you choose to buy some of these predatory insects to control FSB you will need to work out a program for a controlled and systematic release over many weeks to target the life cycle of the FSB.

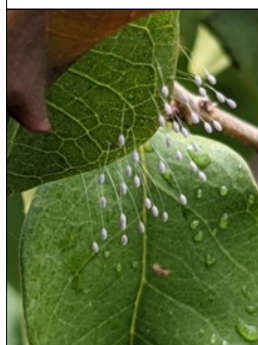
Encouraging Predatory Insects

Assassin bugs love Queen Anne's lace, daisies, and alfalfa. You could also try planting flowers like marigolds, dandelions, goldenrod, and tansy. Herbs like dill and fennel may also attract assassin bugs.

Lacewings Adults are attracted to nectar and pollen. They love alyssum, angelica, caraway, carrot, coriander, daisy family (coreopsis), dill, fennel, heather, oleander, Queen Anne's lace, red and white cosmos (*Bipinnatus*), tansy, yellow yarrow.



Spiders predate FSB



Lacewing eggs

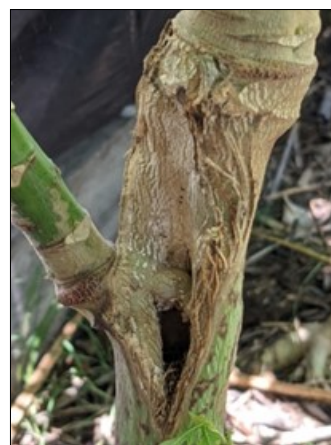
Predatory Shield Bugs need ground covers for shelter during winter. However, from my reading on these bugs, they don't seem to exist in large quantities. Plants that attract them are *Leptospermum continentale* (Prickly Tea-tree). Other plants that attract these bugs seem to be mostly temperate zone plants.

Micro Bats can be encouraged by providing purpose-built Micro Bat boxes or houses for them.

Strategic Summary

In summary, there are no proven fully effective solutions for the home gardener. To control this pest requires a multi-pronged and experimental approach and then hopefully some sort of control can be achieved.

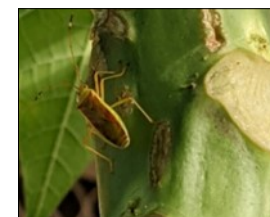
- Be observant, especially when the season is particularly wet.
- Tree height – keep trees pruned to around 2-3 metres.
- Try spraying the FSB with pyrethrum and tea tree oil, but target spray the bugs themselves.
- Plant flowers and plants to attract beneficial insects – try planting a meadowland of flowers among your fruit trees.
- If buying in predatory insects, work out a plan to progressively release them over several months so the generations of FSB can be kept in check.



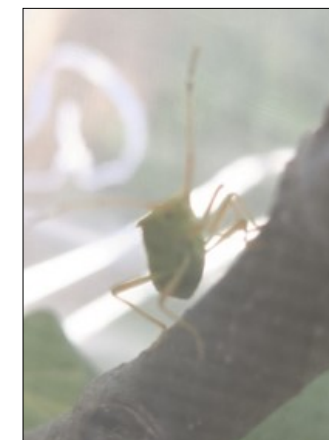
Last year's damage to paw paw



Damage to pawpaw



Adult FSB on pawpaw



FSB trapped in organza bag on fig

Fruit Spotting Bug (continued)

List of Susceptible Plants

Acerola	Choko	Mango
Avocado	Common fig	Meyer lemon
Banana	Coral tree	Miniature umbrella tree
Bangalow palm	Corky passion flower	Mock orange
Bauhinia	Cotton tree	Mulberry
Beach bird's eye	Custard apple	Pawpaw
Cabbage palm	Grape	Passion fruit
Camellia	Grenadilla	Pomegranate
Camphor laurel	Guava	Ribbonwood
Carambolla	Indian hawthorn	Rough-leafed fig
Carob	Jaboticaba	Silver quandong
Cashew nut	Lillypilly	Siratro
Castor bean	Longan	Soap bushwhite sapote
Champak	Loquat	Tuckeroo
Cheese tree	Lychee	White cedar
		Zigzag plant

Further Reading

[Biocontrol pays off | Queensland Country Life | Queensland](#)

[Anastatus \(goodbugs.org.au\)](#)

[Anastatus Home \(bioresources.com.au\)](#)

[Bug Host Plants \(bioresources.com.au\)](#)

[Killer bug fells trees | News Mail \(news-mail.com.au\)](#)

[Glossy shield bug | Insects and Organic Gardening](#)

[Using Pyrethrum - Fact Sheets - Gardening Australia - GARDEN-ING AUSTRALIA \(abc.net.au\)](#)

An updated, extended version of this report by Greg Lindner on the Fruit Spotting Bug will soon be available on the ROGI website under the RESOURCES tab.



Francke Latter was lucky to snap this photo of a Great Carpenter Bee on her Salvia pallida earlier this year. Stunning!

BUGS FOR BUGS

specialises in integrated pest management (IPM) and is one of Australia's leading suppliers of biological control agents. Their mission is to help Australian growers achieve best practice pest management with minimal pesticides.

They are a science-based company that:

- has been providing crop protection solutions and bio-control organisms for more than thirty years
- breeds beneficial insects and mites (good bugs to control bad bugs)
- is highly experienced in the field of fruit fly management
- offers a range of non-toxic alternatives to conventional pesticides
- conducts ongoing research and development into biological control and fruit fly management
- provides contract research in the field of integrated pest management.

See page 9 for their range of biocontrol solutions.

Bugs for Bugs **biocontrol solutions**

BUGS
FOR
BUGS

Thrips	Spider mites	Broad mite Rust mites	Whiteflies	Aphids	Hard scales	Mealybugs Soft scales	Caterpillars	Fungus gnats Shore flies
								
								
Orius	Persimilis	Montdorensis	Montdorensis	Aphidius	Chilocorus	Cryptolaemus	Trichogramma	Hypoaspis
								
Montdorensis	Californicus	Cucumeris	Eretmocerus	Harmonia	Aphytis	Lacewings	Lacewings	
								
Cucumeris	Montdorensis	Californicus	Encarsia	Lacewings	Lacewings			
								
Hypoaspis								

www.bugsforbugs.com.au



Plant of the Month—Onion (*Allium cepa*)

Growing Onions

I wonder if you have grown your own onions? People say they are difficult to grow, but I don't find them too hard. I'll share my tips with you, so you can have success too.

Not all onions do well here in the humid subtropics, but you can grow a few favourites and achieve good results. Here are some important things to know about growing onions:

- The seeds germinate in autumn, grow in winter and fill out the bulb in spring.
- It takes 22 weeks to grow a 'bulbing' onion from seed.
- You must sow fresh seed. Onion seed doesn't last as long as tomato seed, so I sow onions within two years of harvesting the seed.
- The bulb lifts out of the ground as it fills out so you can see how big your onions are.
- You don't have to pull them out until the leaves have died back.
- Some onions are perennial harvest varieties.

Perennial harvest...

Easier onions to grow in the Redlands

I have a few garden borders of perennial *Red Welsh* bunching onions and spring onions (green bunching onions) that have been growing in the same place for four or more years.

I don't pull out the whole onion when I need some for salads or stir fries - I just cut the onion off at the ground and it will resprout and perpetuate the clump. You can grow them from seed in autumn to spring, or if you have bought a bunch of onions at the grocery store, cut the roots off with a few centimetres of white base and plant these into a pot or the garden. They will grow very successfully.

Annual onions

The white and brown cooking onions and the red salad onions are a bit more challenging to grow. These need to be replanted from seed or seedling annually, and now is the time to be thinking about doing it. I suggest growing the *Gladalan White* aka *Lockyer Early White* and *Gladalan Brown* onions. I also grow *Red Odourless Salad Onions* and *Long Red Tropea* varieties. Each of these are very suitable for our warmer winters and hotter spring temperatures.



Gladalan white onions from my garden



Red odourless onion seedlings

Plant of the Month—Onion (*continued*)

Steps to successful onion growing

- The onions with a fat bulb such as the *Gladalans* and *Salad Reds* grow in cooler weather. They need temps under 24°C to germinate followed by the increased daylight hours of spring, to fatten up the bulbs.
- Sow bulb onion seed in March to June, starting seed in 100mm pots indoors where it's cooler for better germination. Take them outside to a bright spot after germination. I grow them on to about 10-15 cm tall before transplanting them into the garden.
- While they are germinating and growing, prepare your soil. It must be very well drained. Wet, soggy soil is disastrous! I find the whites grow well in the slightly sandy soil atop the retaining wall in a little shade.



Pictured are Long Tropea Red onions (left) and Red Welsh bunching onions (right). Both onions are a brighter red in spring.

- Apply a dusting of agricultural sulphur to the soil, then a fortnight later some liquid lime. You don't need a heavily fertilised soil as you don't want too much leaf. Ideally red white and brown onions are best planted in the final stage of a 4-crop rotation *after the flowers and fruit*.
 - Be patient as they grow. It takes months! You can pull them out as you need them, but I try to keep them until the leaves die down to at least 50%. Then I pull them up and dry the skins off in a cooler shady spot like the garage. If you store them when the outer skin is moist, they will rot.
- (Remember the bunching onions do not need lifting. You can continue to use them all through the year.)

Saving your onion seed

It's worth saving your own onion seed. Onions are biennial, so they will form seeds in the second autumn/winter/spring. So, keep a few in the ground for your own seed saving needs. I enclose the ball shaped seed heads in a paper bag after the lavender or white flowers have withered. When the head is dry, I cut it from the stem and store in the bag for a few months. Then I massage the seed from the head. Store your seeds in a cool spot or in the fridge.

Good luck with your onions,
Linda Brennan, Ecobotanica

There will be onion seeds for sale in the Seed Bank, \$1-00 packet.
Some seedlings may be available on the Plant Table.

Regular organic growing classes are held by Linda Brennan at her property in Capalaba. To find the latest classes, check out her website: www.ecobotanica.com.au

What's eating the Leaves of my Lemon Tree?

Louise asked for advice on what has been eating the leaves of her lemon tree. This is a classic case of grasshoppers. The grasshoppers have been rampant and aggressive in Redland's gardens this year. Probably not helped by the fact that we have had some decent summer rain, so there is plenty of new growth for them to feed on!



I deal with grasshoppers by collecting them and feeding them to my chickens! They love these little morsels and there is great competition for the grasshoppers among the chickens.

However, for those members who don't have access to chickens, or find catching grasshoppers a bit icky there are a few organic solutions.

My favourite organic solution (pre-chickens), is to spray the leaves with Neem oil. Neem oil is a plant-based oil from the Neem tree. Neem oil is safe for pets, birds, lizards and beneficial insects including bees (as long as you don't spray it directly on them), but not for any chewing insects such as grasshoppers. Neem oil destroys the grasshoppers appetite, so they stop chewing on your plants.

Another successful treatment is to spray the leaves with an insecticidal soap, such as Yates Natrasoap. This works particularly well on grasshoppers when they are small, which is when they are their most destructive.

Best Fig to grow in a Pot in SEQ?

Kristie asked for advice on what is the best fig to grow in a large pot in our climate.

Most figs grow well in the Redlands climate so the choice really comes down to flavour and time of fruiting. When determining what variety to grow, it helps to see what is available in local nurseries. You will generally find the most common fig at nurseries across the Redlands and at the big green shed are brown turkey figs. I have several brown turkey fig trees growing and fruiting in large pots in my garden.

Other worthwhile varieties include Black Genoa, White Adriatic and Prestons Prolific. If you have room for more than one fig tree you might like to plant a few different varieties so that you can stagger the fruiting season.

At our last meeting guest speaker arborist Andrew Stovell talked about composting mulch. During the follow-up questions, a ROGI member asked what trees were suitable for mulching as they had recently moved to a property that had several frangipani and poinciana trees. They were wondering if these trees could be removed and if so, could they be turned into woodchip and used as mulch. Andrew advised that this was certainly possible.

I just wanted to add to this answer that, in biodynamics (and organic gardening in general) one of the most important element is giving back to, and feeding your soil. However, under the principles of biodynamics, plants that thrive in your soil are telling you something about the health of your soil. If the frangipani and poinciana have thrived then it is actually important that you return these nutrients to your soil when you cut them down or prune them. This will help to balance the soil for the veggie patch that you want to grow. Frangipani and poinciana grow best in slightly acidic soils, around pH 6.5, which is also the preferred pH of most vegetables, so this should be a great area for a veggie patch providing you get plenty of sunlight.

By Rohanne Young, The Delectable Garden

Seed Savers News

Our seed saving is underway for the new year, with John Borg volunteering to look after herbs and vegetables, and Vicky Leggatt after flowers. All seeds donated to Seed Savers are separated (*you can do this at home first to help us*), saved, and then shared with fellow ROGI members.

Mark **Tuesday 20 April at 7pm** on your calendar if you wish to attend the next Seed Savers meeting (all ROGI members are welcome). The topic will be **growing from leaves and runners**. Please book your spot via Team App.



Above: Seed savers busy at work separating, saving and sharing seeds at our first meeting in February.

FREE SEEDS! The ROGI Seed Savers group has been busy saving seed from various plants. These are donated to the Seed Bank for use by members—for FREE! Go to the Seed Bank to check out what seeds are available.



At the beginning of summer last year a number of Seed Savers were tasked with growing winged beans—some to eat, but the best saved for seed for future crops and ROGI members. The flowers, pods, leaves, and tubers are all edible. It is a vigorous climbing vine that is hardy and disease-resistant. Here are some photos charting our progress—look out for the seed later in the year.

By Ann Roffey

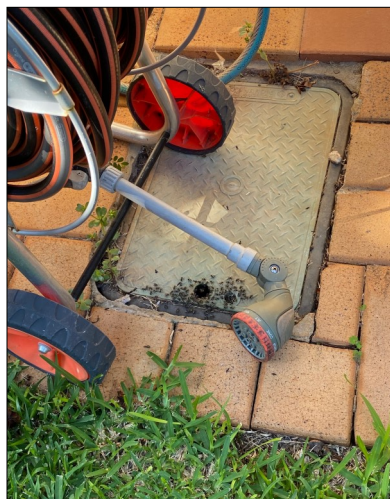
ROGI Garden Visits & Field Trips

GARDEN VISIT

**Sunday 21 March—Rhonda Binns,
Cleveland**

A suburban block with organically grown vegetables and fruit trees, as well as other plants. Native bees have made their home in the water meter box, and they will be relocated later in the afternoon.

NB: This garden visit is fully booked.



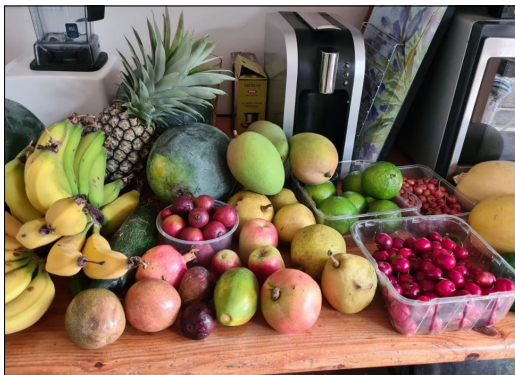
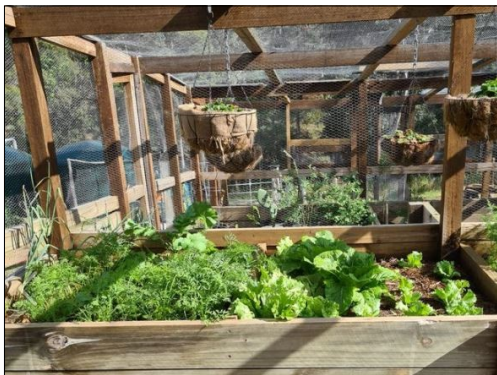
FIELD TRIP

Sunday 18 April & Friday 23 April

Tullamore Farm, Kerry (near Beaudesert)

This working farm encompasses six vegetable gardens and over 360 fruit trees and vines. The tour covers all aspects of their sustainability journey and a lot of knowledge about how you can incorporate some of their methods into your life.

To book your spot, please go to Team App or email Toni Bowler at tonibowler@hotmail.com. Cost \$10-00 per person.



Garden Events March-April

BETHANIA STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN

Bethania Street, Lota

Introduction to Organic Gardening

Sunday 28th March 2021 (9:30am - 11:30am)

It's easy to start a vegetable garden. Topics will include location, soil, building your garden bed, seasons in South East Queensland and plant choice.

FREE - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL on [0439 048 585](tel:0439048585)

* * * * *

AUSTRALASIAN PERMACULTURE CONVERGENCE 2021

Celebrating Nature's Abundance

Monday 12 April to Thursday 15 April 2021

at Camp Kindilan, Redland Bay, Queensland.

The Convergence is being organised by Northey Street City Farm on behalf of Permaculture Australia. It is a biennial gathering of permaculture people from around the country and the Asia Pacific region. All people with an interest in permaculture and regenerative development are invited to join us for four days of workshops, hands-on activities, and discussions on how we can both celebrate and support nature's abundance.

The program will include talks and workshops covering topics relevant to the three ethics of Permaculture—Earth Care, People Care and Fair Share. As well as thought-provoking keynote speakers, the daytime workshops will each be 90 minutes long to allow for more participation and hands-on activities. Keynote speakers are Starhawk, Stuart Andrews, Robyn Francis and David Holmgren.

For more information go to: <https://apc.nscf.org.au/>

Oaklands Street Workshop



Bed Prep Workshop

We're very excited to be offering our bed prep workshop to get your growing season pumping!

Oaklands Street Community Garden's first beds were established 15 years ago, and still produce great tasting organic produce. We'll show you how you can too.

Topics:

- Why prep a bed?
- Bed location and orientation
- Planning and crop rotation
- Common crop families
- Compost and fertilisers
- Planting
- Questions and Answers

Date: Sunday, 11th April—2 to 5pm

Cost: \$10.00 (ROGI will pay this cost for members only).

Maximum group size is 20.

Bring: Some tools and gloves are available on site, but If you have a favourite fork or shovel of your own please bring it. Please wear SunSmart clothes and sturdy closed shoes.

Please contact Terry on the tech desk at the next ROGI meeting for further information, or email him at terrysullivan@hotmail.com to register your interest. Sign on sheets will also be available at the next ROGI meeting.



Directions: Oaklands Street Community Garden is located behind ALDI at Alexandra Hills. Access Oaklands Street from the roundabout behind Alexandra Hills Shopping Centre - there is a sign on the corner. Turn right at the end and follow the path to the gate. Please drive slowly once you're inside.



Meeting Information

Please consider contributing to any of these at various times:

ROGI REWARDS:

Good quality plants and other garden-related items brought along by members. Everyone who attends the meeting is eligible for a ROGI Reward. **Please label plant with its name and some details before placing it on the table.**

MEMBERS' SALES:

Items you've produced that are surplus to your requirements that **you wish to sell** to other members – seedlings, eggs, honey, lemons, jam, sustainable craft items – things that have cost you time, money, and effort to produce. Please make sure items are labelled, named and priced. It is preferable that you staff the stall yourself or time-share with a friend.

FREE SWAP/SHARE/GIVE-AWAY:

For items you don't want payment for— empty pots, cuttings, unwanted volunteer plants (named), surplus produce, shredded paper, strawberry runners and so on. You may want to work out an arrangement with other members to do some swapping outside of the meetings.

PLANT CLINIC:

Bring along your plant problems—insect/plant/weed (as many parts as you can - fruit, leaf, root) in a sealed plastic bag. Fill in the form on the Plant Clinic table (located just inside the door to the main hall) before the meeting starts. Someone will have a look and may be able to answer your questions. Any solutions will be given to you on the night and published in the newsletter. *Please be aware that, although we do our best, there may not be anyone present who can solve your problem or identify your plant, especially if it is not related to organic gardening.*

GARDEN ITEMS FOR SALE:

Three small raised metal beds.
\$15-00 each or
3 for \$40-00.

Dimensions are
1200mm long x
900mm wide x
300mm deep.



2 pieces of pond liner left over from making wicking beds. It is the best quality and strongest liner for wicking beds.

2m x 2.5m - \$50
4m x 5m - \$140
(Cost \$63/m)



Also a three tiered worm farm to give away to a new member for FREE.

Rhonda's contact details will be in the email accompanying the newsletter.



Used Pots Needed

Please **return seedling pots (that have been washed)** to the plant table so that they can be reused – especially the 4-cell ones like these:



Also other clean used pots (small sizes up to 120mm diameter). Square pots are good too.

Bigger pots, such as those you get through ROGI Rewards can be put on the swap/share/giveaway table in the foyer.



Strawberry runners can now be separated, trimmed and repotted or planted into the ground. They love a rich, fertile and well-drained soil in an open, sunny position with good air circulation.

Please Note: This guide is for sowing seeds, not seedlings. There may be several days or even weeks between the optimal time to sow a seed and to transplant a seedling.

Seed Sowing Guide

March

Basil
Beans: Climbing, Snake, French
Beetroot
Borage
Capsicum/Chilli
Carrot
Cauliflower
Coriander
Cucumber
Eggplant
Leek
Lettuce
Pigeon Pea
Potatoes
Pumpkin
Radish
Silverbeet
Spring Onion
Spinach: Brazilian, Egyptian, Warrigal
Squash
Sweet Potato
Sweet Corn
Tomato

For a list of seed bank stock, please go to the ROGI website www.rogi.com.au and click on the RESOURCES tab.

April

Artichoke: Jerusalem
Asparagus
Beans: Lablab, Madagascar, French
Beetroot
Broccoli
Brussel Sprouts
Cabbage
Capsicum/Chilli
Cauliflower
Carrot
Celery
Chicory
Endive
Florence Fennel
Kohlrabi
Leeks
Lettuce
Onions/Garlic
Potatoes
Radish
Silverbeet
Spinach: Brazilian, Egyptian, Warrigal, Kangkong
Sweet Potato
Tomato
Yacon

Please keep in mind these are only guides. Micro climates and weather conditions may mean that certain seeds may be sown before/after the recommended times. **ROGI Seed Bank is available at all ROGI meetings and Garden Visits. \$1/pack members, \$2 non-members.**

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TECH DESK	Terry Sullavan, Erin Houselander	
WEBSITE	Pal Juvancz	pal@pcpals.com.au



Attached to my Willamette raspberries is this strange thing. It is the "case" of a Case moth! The moths and their larvae are usually harmless creatures found in most gardens throughout Australia. Cases are spun from silk to which twigs, sand, moss, lichen, leaves or bark are attached. The cases can open and close at each end, the front end for feeding and the rear end for ejecting droppings!

From: Garden Pests, Diseases & Good Bugs (by Denis Crawford)

We'd like to hear from you!

For example, send us:

- A story about your garden
- A photo of an interesting plant
- An article about an unusual plant
- A request for items or information
- Specific garden or nutrition information
- A recipe for home-grown produce
- A notice that you have something to give away or sell
- A handy technique or tip
- A gardening problem solved
- Anything to do with organic growing
- A review of a ROGI library book

Please send your items to the editor and help keep the ROGI Newsletter topical, interesting, local and relevant.

Email info@rogi.com.au

The March Newsletter deadline is 26 MARCH 2021

The views expressed in ROGI News and at ROGI meetings are those of the editors and submitters, and guest speakers, not necessarily those of Redland Organic Growers Inc

info@rogi.com.au www.rogi.com.au
PO Box 1257, Cleveland 4163
www.facebook.com/groups/redland.organic.growers

Other gardening groups using organic methods:

Brisbane Organic Growers Inc (BOGI)—

1st Thursday every month (except Jan), Albion Peace Hall, 102 McDonald Rd, Windsor,
6.30 for 7.30pm. 3357 3171 <http://bogi.org.au>

Qld Herb Society—1st Tuesday every month,

Albion Peace Hall. 7.30pm. 54268299
<http://www.qldherbsociety.org.au/qhs>

Oaklands Street Community Garden—Wednesday & Friday 9 - noon, Sunday 2- 5pm. Oaklands Street, Alexandra Hills. 0408 259 445