

# 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 have a chat and something to eat before the meeting. Please be seated by 7pm ready for the proceedings.

**Bayside Community Church**  
**Cnr McDonald Rd and Macarthur St**  
**ALEXANDRA HILLS**

**Don't forget:**

- A small plate of finger food to share for supper (hot/cold)
- Your keep cup for a cuppa
- Return washed seedling pots
- Bring a basket/box/bag for your purchases
- A plant for ROGI Rewards
- Free swap/share/giveaway
- **NB: There will be NO Plant Clinic tonight**

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ROGI webpage: [www.rogi.com.au](http://www.rogi.com.au)  
ROGI Email: [info@rogi.com.au](mailto:info@rogi.com.au)



Arno King's presentation last month at ROGI gave us great information about growing vegetables and the varieties we should choose that are full of flavour. In his opinion cherry tomatoes have more flavour, as well as thicker skins to detract fruit flies. They can also be grown year round. He recommends from top left: Basil's Crazy Cherry, Black Cherry, Tommy Toe, and Broad Ripple Yellow Cherry.

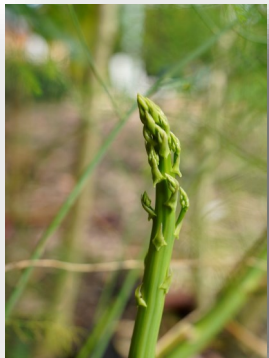


## May Meeting

### Choose your Topic

Whatever your organic gardening knowledge or interest, there will be something for everyone at our May meeting. Various experienced gardeners will share their knowledge in **30-minute** sessions to make sure everyone gets to hear **two** of the talks.

- **Easy Care Vegies - Growing Perennials** by Linda Brennan
- **Beverage Bar - Learn How to Make Fermented Beverages** with Lara Brits
- **Food for Free - Using Self-Sown Plants from your Neighbourhood** by Jill Nixon



The usual attractions will be there - the well-stocked library, Seed Bank, some seedlings and plants, plus local honey, home-made jam, wax wraps and more. **NB: No Plant Clinic tonight.**

**All ROGI Members \$2-00, Visitors \$5-00 entry**  
**Free tea and coffee**

Supper will be held at the beginning of the night (6.30pm). Please bring a small plate of finger food to share (hot or cold). The meeting starts at 7pm.

## ROGI Events

### **GARDEN VISIT - Helen Boreham, Cleveland** **Sunday 26 May - 2pm**

*A suburban garden that has been transformed since Helen bought it in 2015. Being new to the area, she joined three garden clubs and set about propagating cuttings to fill up the almost bare yard. She has some rare bananas she inherited from her father, and lots of annuals. Indigiscapes has given advice on how she can incorporate natives, to keep the haven-for-wildlife happy.*

*Please bring a small plate of food to share and a chair. Book your spot with Toni at [tonibowler@hotmail.com](mailto:tonibowler@hotmail.com) or ring her on 0402 323 704.*

### **WORKSHOPS BY LINDA BRENNAN** **At Oaklands Street Community Garden,** **Oaklands Street, Alexandra Hills**

**1. GROWING THE BEST TOMATOES IN TOWN**  
**Wednesday 29 May - 10 to 11.30am**  
**Cost \$20-00 (Morning tea included)**

**2. GROWING JUICY CITRUS - ESSENTIALS FOR A FABULOUS HARVEST**  
**Wednesday 5 June - 10 to 11.30am**  
**Cost \$20-00 (Morning tea included)**  
*More information on page 7.*

### **ROGI LIBRARIAN NEEDED**

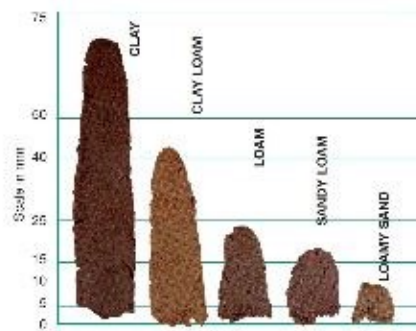
Our wonderful librarian Viga is moving on, so we need someone to volunteer to run the ROGI library on meeting nights. Perhaps two volunteers/friends could do it together. Please speak to Viga at the next meeting - she is willing to do training.

## Grow Fresh Flavourful Vegies Easily

Our guest presenter for April's meeting was landscape architect, urban designer and horticultural consultant Arno King. He posed the questions: Are we growing the best vegetables? Were the vegetables we ate in our childhood better tasting than today? Why do the vegetables we eat overseas taste so much better?

We want to grow vegies that are bountiful and have flavour. This involves selecting the right variety for the area we live in. Brisbane and the Redlands have a perfect climate for growing year round.

When selecting a site for your vegie garden, think location, location, location! Pick a sunny spot, preferably facing north-east. Take into consideration microclimate, aspect and shelter (from trees/buildings etc). Know your soil - put your soil in a jar, and work out whether you have clay, silt or sand:



Soil texture analysis "The Jar Test"  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvN\\_oWoechg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvN_oWoechg)

Or do this simple backyard soil test:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjQW514lrE&t=286s>

Keep an eye on what's happening in your soil by using a pH test. A pH of 6.5 to 7 is ideal. A lot of soils in Brisbane are acidic. You don't want soil that is alkaline, as this doesn't allow plants to take up minerals. Soil pH test kits are available in garden centres and hardware stores.



Organic matter should be added to your soil in the form of compost or mulch. Nutrition is very important for growing vegetables. Do add fertiliser as well, as our climate causes nutrients to wash through readily. Calcium is essential, and our soils are often lacking in this mineral. It can be added by using:

*Garden lime - will raise the pH of soil*

*Gypsum - doesn't change the pH*

*Dolomite lime - this has high levels of magnesium (10 parts magnesium to 1 part calcium). If too much magnesium is added to the soil, calcium will not become available. Use garden lime or gypsum instead!*

Rock minerals can be added to the soil or compost.

<https://agsolutions.com.au/rock-mineral-fertilisers/>

<https://earthlife.com.au/product/garden-mate/>

Now consider what you want to grow. Certain vegetables grow in winter (e.g. cauliflower, broccoli, peas, garlic and potatoes). Whilst others prefer the heat of summer (e.g. zucchini, eggplant, chillies, capsicum).

Watering is extremely important. Too little or too much can make a difference. Invest in a good watering system, with a timer so you can go away easily.



## Grow Fresh Flavourful Vegies Easily (continued)

Arno shared with us the vegetable varieties that are bountiful and have more flavour:

### BEANS

Purple King  
Italian Flat  
Beurre de Rocquencourt

### BEANS PODDED

Borlotti  
Madagascar

### BEETROOT

Chioggia  
Detroit Golden  
Cylindrica  
Bull's Blood

### BROCCOLI

Purple Sprouting  
Romanesco  
Broccoli Raab/Rapini

### COUVE

Couve Trochuda  
Kailan  
Spigariello  
Couve

### CUCUMBER

Lemon  
Suyo Long  
Gympie Gold  
Richmond Green Apple

### EGGPLANT

Listada Gandia  
Casper  
Rosa Bianca

### KALE

Red Russian  
Cavallo Nero  
Redbor  
Siberian Dwarf

### LETTUCE

Merveille de Quatre Saison  
Australian Yellow  
Tom Thumb  
Oakleaf

### ONION

Red Onion  
Bunching Onion  
French Shallot

### PEAS

Massey Gem  
Golden Podded  
Purple Podded  
Sugar Snap

### PUMPKIN

Queensland Blue  
Hokkaido/Red Kuri/  
Potimarron/Chestnut  
Gramma  
Marina de Chioggia

### ROCKET

Wild Rocket/Arugula Sylvetta  
Red Dragon  
Apollo

### TOMATOES, CHERRY

Black Cherry  
Tommy Toe  
Basil's Crazy Cherry  
Broad Ripple Yellow Cherry

### TOMATOES

Ananas Noir  
Santorini  
Black Russian  
Rouge de Marmande

### ZUCCHINI

Costata Romanesco  
Long Florence  
Gem

Arno's advice is to pick a climber rather than dwarf/bush form. You will get a hardier plant, the crop will last longer and be more productive. It also makes the most of your space.

### GREAT COOKS & RECIPES:

Elizabeth David –  
French and Mediterranean recipes

Madhur Jaffrey –  
Indian and world recipes

World food Café –  
traditional world recipes

Anna Del Conte –  
Italian Recipes

Nigel Slater –  
modern takes on recipes

Meera Sodha –  
Indian and World recipes

Antonio Carluccio –  
Italian Recipes

Yotam Ottolenghi –  
Middle East, Mediterranean recipes

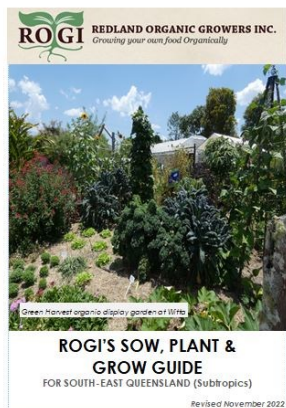
Sally Butcher –  
Middle Eastern Recipes

Jane Grigson

Arno does garden talkback on  
4BC882 on Sundays, 6 to 7am.

# What to Sow & Grow for the Cool Season

April Seed Savers Topic by Linda Brennan, Ecobotanica



See the *ROGI Sow, Plant & Grow Guide* for a more comprehensive selection of what to sow and grow during the cool season. Available for sale at the Plant Table for \$5-00.

## Crop rotation

Growing a rotation of plants in an area reduces pest and disease carried or hosted by one type of plant. Sow them in the order numbered as a bed is cleared of the previous crop.

## Cool Season Sowing & Planting

1. Soil improvers	2. Greens (leaf & stem)	3. Flowers & fruit	4. Roots
<p>Legumes e.g. peas, broad beans</p> <p>Non legumes e.g. fenugreek, millet, BQ mulch, linseed</p>	<p>Asian greens e.g. tatsoi, pak choy &amp; bok choy; kale, cabbages, celery, coriander, lettuce, chichory, silverbeet and spinaches, onions and friends</p>	<p>Cauliflower, tomato, corn in early autumn. Beans (e.g. purple climbing, lablab, broad borlotti beans); broccoli</p>	<p>Carrots, kohlrabi, beetroot, daikon, turnip, radish, potatoes</p>
<p><b>Special needs:</b> Legumes do well with a little lime at soil prep. Broadcast these seed in the soil and rake over, no need to transplant seedlings.</p>	<p><b>Special needs:</b> Protect from snails and slugs. Sow flowers between crops to deter cabbage white butterflies (e.g. lobelia, poppies etc)</p>	<p><b>Special needs:</b> Protect corn from rats. Install trellis or mesh for climbers at planting time. Support tall growing broad beans as they grow with stakes and twine.</p>	<p><b>Special needs:</b> Soft, stone-free soil. Do not transplant carrots and turnips, sow in situ. Radish will germinate in 3-5 days.</p>

If your soil is fertile and soft, almost all seeds can be planted directly into garden beds or pots. If your beds are not quite ready, you can sow the seeds into seedling punnets or containers and then transplant them into the soil when they are larger. We suggest planting root vegies directly into the area you wish to grow them, so they develop better roots.



## What to Sow & Grow for the Cool Season *(continued)*

### Steps to growing from seed

1. Prepare the garden bed ensuring the soil is raked and all weeds removed, or dampen the seed raising mix and almost fill containers.
2. If in ground, mark out rows and make a shallow rill. Sow seeds along this rill and when all rows are seeded, cover with a fine layer of soil. Usually ½-1cm. Big seeds like beans and peas can be sown in individual holes. For trays and punnets, put a seed or two in each cell on top of the seed raising mix and apply a light cover of seed raising mix or vermiculite over the seeds.
3. Label the punnet with date and variety. Water in the seeds with a gentle spray.
4. You may wish to cover seeds in the ground with vegie net until they've grown a bit to keep birds etc off them. Water to keep the seed bed damp.
5. If planting in punnets and pots, they need a bright spot but not in direct sunlight. Water daily. Seeds will take 5-28 days to germinate depending on the seed and conditions. They should never dry out, but should not be waterlogged either.
6. Once seeds have germinated, spray with liquid fertiliser e.g. seaweed and fish product, (foliar fertilise) weekly to encourage fabulous growth!
7. In ground: seedlings can be transplanted to thin them out a bit as they grow.
8. In pots: when seedlings are big enough to handle, use a teaspoon to pick them out and transfer them into the soil or their permanent pot with fertile soil or potting mix. Water in well and continue weekly foliar fertilising as above.

For **carrots**, mix the seed with a little sand to make it easier to spread the seed out along rows. **Beetroot** and **turnip** seeds are larger and can be spaced about 5cm apart at a depth of ½-1 cm.

## Upcoming Events:

### **SAMFORD EDIBLE GARDEN TRAIL**

**Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May**

Experience edible gardens of the gorgeous Samford Valley.

Book your tickets online at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/samford-edible-garden-trail-j4spy88d>

### **QLD HERB AWARENESS FAIR**

**Albion Peace Hall - 102 McDonald Road, Windsor**

**Sunday 26 May, 9am to 3pm**

**Free Entry** [www.facebook.com/qldherbsociety](http://www.facebook.com/qldherbsociety)

### **HARVEST SHARE**

**Bethania Street Community Garden**

**Bethania Street, Lota**

**Sunday 26 May, 2:30pm - 4:00pm**

**Gold coin donation - No booking required**

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Harvest Share, focusing on gardening, home grown food and local produce. Bring your friends and neighbours to wander through our productive garden, talk to our friendly gardeners, meet new people, have a cuppa, listen to some local music and celebrate local food growing and community. Are you a gardener or a foodie? Bring along any spare home grown produce or homemade food to share. While this is not the venue to share household products, ornaments, clothing or books, it is the perfect opportunity to share the joys of our garden with your family and friends.

### **INDIGISCAPES ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY FAIR**

**17 Runnymede Road, Capalaba**

**Saturday 1 June, 9am - 2pm**

<https://indigiscapes.redland.qld.gov.au/whatson>

## Workshops at Oaklands Street Community Garden (Oaklands Street, Alexandra Hills)



### GROWING THE BEST TOMATOES IN TOWN

**Wednesday 29 May - 10 to 11.30am**

**Cost \$20-00 (Morning tea included)**

Join Linda Brennan and the Oaklands Street Community Garden team for a fun, focussed look at how you can grow the very best tomatoes hands down! Tomatoes are a crop we all want to grow and do well at, and the cooler months give us the best chance of success here in the Redlands. It's the perfect time to start with your next crop of tomatoes following Linda's tried and true methods and professional tips. You'll find out:

- How best to grow tomatoes organically both inground and in pots
- Choosing the right type of tomatoes for our Redlands conditions
- Avoiding or minimising disease and what to do about it if it hits your crop
- Treating your soil for the best growing results
- Tomato pests and how to treat them organically
- Growing the most delicious flavour into your tomatoes – and what makes a tomato tastier anyway?
- To stake or not to stake

*You'll take home a tomato seed pot ready to grow at home to try out your newly acquired skills and knowledge.*

### GROWING JUICY CITRUS - ESSENTIALS FOR A FABULOUS HARVEST

**Wednesday 5 June - 10 to 11.30am**

**Cost \$20-00 (Morning tea included)**

Linda Brennan is our trusted guide for this workshop. She will introduce you to the whole gamut of citrus tree care to achieve a bumper organic crop from your trees. Given that Oaklands Street Community garden has a wide range of citrus trees, we can observe first-hand many of the principles of citrus care that she will cover today. We'll start at the ground and work our way up, including topics such as ...

- Achieving peak growing and productivity with excellent soil conditions for happy citrus trees
- How much water is too much for my citrus?
- Can I grow them in pots?
- How and when to prune citrus. We'll have a demo on some of the trees if feasible on the day
- Small, marked or dry fruit? We'll look at what causes these pesky issues and how we can address them even mid-season
- Organic pest and disease control
- Deficiencies – is a pack of micronutrients the best bet?
- Feeding citrus trees without using chemical fertilisers

*And more too.*

**PLEASE BOOK YOUR SPOT BY EMAILING:**

[hello@oaklandsstcommunitygarden.qld.org](mailto:hello@oaklandsstcommunitygarden.qld.org)

**Payment can be on the day (cash or card) OR  
request bank transfer details when booking your spot**



## Hawk Moth: Friend or Foe?

By Rohanne Young



While I was watering my garden the other day I found a massive caterpillar. I mean it was massive!! It was close to being the size of my thumb (see photo).

I know several gardeners who would have instantly reached for an organic pesticide. However, I reached for Google Lens instead, and found that I was host to a Hawk Moth caterpillar, sometimes referred to as a hornworm. This comes from the fact that they have a distinctive 'horn' on their tail end (you can see this in the photo).

Hawk moths are large moths that can hover in space while they sip nectar from flowers. They have a very long proboscis or tube-like tongue, which is useful for feeding on nectar.

These moths mostly fly at night, and are important pollinators for many plants including pawpaw and dragon fruit. Given that this hornworm was next to a garden that has both pawpaw trees and red dragon fruit, this made sense.

This particular hornworm was having a lovely feast on a pot full of impatiens, and was making short work of them. However, the impatiens are in the garden to add colour and attract insects, so I figured they were doing their job!

Moths are often maligned in the garden. They're not as pretty or colourful as butterflies, but they play a very important role in pollinating our plants, and are considered one of the most effective pollinators in our gardens.

I left the hornworm to continue feeding, and when I checked the next day he was gone. I hoped that he'd actually gone on to pupate, but wherever he went, I was pleased that he visited my garden.



Adult Hawk Moth with a wing span of 100mm  
Photo: [Brisbane Insects.com](http://BrisbaneInsects.com)



## Petrea

By Mara Savic

One of my favourite things to do at ROGI meetings is look at the plants that other members have propagated for sale. The advantage of buying from this table is that plants have been grown successfully in the Redlands, so I have a better chance at keeping them alive.

I often look for something I haven't heard of, and last meeting for me it was Petrea (a climber). As soon as I was told it will develop purple flowers I had to have it.



Anyway, I've planted it, not where it can climb because in that minute it took to dig the hole, I forgot it wants to climb. No problem, I'll either move it or give it a structure - especially given it's surprisingly still healthy two weeks in.

Some information I found on Google about Petrea:

*It is a fast-growing, twining, woody vine or rounded shrub/small tree that grows to 4 m tall, but can be kept low and produces wisteria-like erect to drooping axillary foot-long racemes of star-like purple flowers (15-30 flowers per raceme) in late spring to early summer. Prefers full sun but also tolerates shade, although it will not flower profusely whilst shaded. It flourishes in fertile, well-drained soils and can tolerate drought. Native to Central and South America. The flowers are not fragrant, which is a shame. Known by many names such as Queen's Wreath, Purple Wreath, Tropical Wisteria, Bluebird Vine, and Fleur de Dieu, I think I've known it as Sandpaper Vine in a previous life, as the leaves feel like sandpaper to touch.*

Anyway, to those of you who propagate for plant sale table, thank you, keep on propagating, it is very much appreciated. I'm more often chasing herbs and bee attracting plants.

Yours,  
The optimistic gardener

### ROGI SEEDBANK NEWS

Seedbank has acquired some new seed stock, including some that were mentioned by last month's presenter, Arno King. You are most welcome to come and check them out.

Please do not forget our Cool Season Starter packs that come complete with planting instructions.

We're located on the back table, look out for our smiling faces.

Geoff & Cheryl Rynja

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

Email: [newsletter@rogi.com.au](mailto:newsletter@rogi.com.au)

The June Newsletter  
deadline is **30 MAY 2024**



## Member Advertisements



### FOR SALE: WEBER KETTLE BBQ & ACCESSORIES

Includes grate, roasting rack, cover and cook book, VGC.  
\$50 the lot. Contact Francke on 0408 080 113.

### FOR SALE: ORGANIC ROSELLAS FOR JAM/CORDIAL MAKING

Oaklands Street Community Garden has organically grown  
rosellas for jam making for sale, \$10-00 per kilo.

Buy them at OSCG on Wednesday and Friday 8am-12pm  
at Oaklands Street, Alexandra Hills.



### FOR SALE: GRANDPA CHOOK FEEDER & COVER

Save time, money and reduce  
waste with this automatic chook  
feeder. Includes home made  
cover. \$50-00. Contact Francke  
on 0408 080 113.

**ROOMS TO LET** in an older style share  
house, \$200 each weekly.  
Wildlife friendly property with chooks and  
organic gardens. Hourly bus outside.  
Phone: 0438 176 981





## ROGI MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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VICE PRESIDENT	YOU???	
SECRETARY	Patricia Stuart	<a href="mailto:secretary@rogi.com.au">secretary@rogi.com.au</a>
TREASURER	Bernadette Reid	<a href="mailto:treasurer@rogi.com.au">treasurer@rogi.com.au</a>
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Rhonda Binns, Toni Bowler, Romana Langdon, Ann Roffey	

### OFFICE BEARERS

MEMBERSHIP SEC'Y	Rhonda Binns	<a href="mailto:membership@rogi.com.au">membership@rogi.com.au</a>
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Ann Roffey	<a href="mailto:newsletter@rogi.com.au">newsletter@rogi.com.au</a>
PR & COMMUNICATIONS	Gail Bruce	
CLUB EVENTS	Toni Bowler	<a href="mailto:tonibowler@hotmail.com">tonibowler@hotmail.com</a>
PUBLIC EVENTS	Terry Sullavan	<a href="mailto:publicevents@rogi.com.au">publicevents@rogi.com.au</a>
LIBRARY	Viga Misztal & Astrid Strich	<a href="mailto:library@rogi.com.au">library@rogi.com.au</a>
SEED BANK	Geoff & Cheryl Rynja	<a href="mailto:seeds@rogi.com.au">seeds@rogi.com.au</a>
SEED SAVERS GROUP	Linda Brennan	<a href="mailto:linda@ecobotanica.com.au">linda@ecobotanica.com.au</a>
TECH DESK	Bevan Saul	
WEBSITE	Pal Juvancz	<a href="mailto:pal@pcpals.com.au">pal@pcpals.com.au</a>

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

**Email:** [info@rogi.com.au](mailto:info@rogi.com.au) **Webpage:** [www.rogi.com.au](http://www.rogi.com.au)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/redland.organic.growers](http://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  
 and Friday 9-noon, Sunday 2-5pm. Oaklands Street,  
 Alexandra Hills. 0408 259 445



*The stalks are to protect the eggs from ants and other predators.*

Have you noticed something like this around your yard? I've seen them on insect screens, sides of pots, under leaves and even on a car's hubcap! Don't wipe them off, they're the eggs of lacewings (pictured below).

Lacewings are generalist predators for the control of a wide range of pests including aphids, mealybugs, caterpillars, and scale insects.

Attract lacewings to your garden by growing nectar-rich flowering plants. It's also good to have a range of plants, to ensure an alternative food source if bugs are running low.



Don't have lacewings in your garden? You can purchase them from Bugs for Bugs, one of Australia's leading suppliers of biological control agents. They supply a range of non-toxic alternatives to conventional pesticides.

<https://bugsforbugs.com.au/>

**Green Lacewing (*Mallada signatus*)**  
 Photo by Rohanne Young