



Ecovillage Garden Diary 2023

By Mark Tupman, WEV Horticulture Manager

The Garden Diary will keep residents up to date with what we're doing in the residential food gardens and sharing some nitty, gritty information and advice on a range of related matters. These brief diary-style notes will be updated after each Friday Garden Group get-together to which all residents are welcome. In addition, if you would like to join the WhatsApp communication group, please email Mark on mark@ecovillage.net.au and he will add you.

BUNURU – FEBRUARY / MARCH

For starters

We are now officially into the Bunuru season and as the days gradually start getting shorter you can feel a chill in the morning and evening air. This is the perfect time to plant many of the vegetables we pick over autumn and winter. Establishing these while there's still a reasonable amount of sunshine about, makes for better production and sweeter, more tender crops. Another benefit of planting at this time of year is that most autumn/winter pests, diseases and weeds aren't very active yet, further stacking the odds in favour of a bountiful harvest.

So, it's time to get growing. Things to do over the coming months include:

- organising seeds, pots, and potting mix
- clearing out old crops and preparing garden beds
- planting seeds in pots, sowing seeds and planting out seedlings in garden beds
- watering, protecting and feeding young plants

We will go into some of these items in more depth over the coming weeks.

Relevant docs in the [Residents' Handbook](#):

- Garden Calendar
- Annual Edible Garden Planting Guide
- Potting Mix Recipe

31 March 2023



What we did

- Made a magic potion of bio-stimulants to put out on plants and soil
- Applied it to seedlings and vegetables in home gardens

Observed

- Some Nitrogen and Phosphorous deficiency showing on the vegetable seedlings in some of the gardens

Learnt

- Recipe for the magic potion which is primarily a combination of compost extract (see compost extract recipe), fish hydrolysate, liquid seaweed and molasses.
- Organic inputs to apply for phosphorous and nitrogen deficiency – blood and bone, fish hydrolysate, chicken manure (see organic inputs)

Making Biological Primer



Applying Primer

24 March 2023



What we did

- Made potting mix
- Planted another round of autumn seedlings in pots (Annual Edible Garden Planting Guide)
- Transplanted existing seedlings

Observed

- Lots of Ibis about, prone to nibbling on seedlings
- Rats/mice also about
- Been having a mix of warm days in between rainfall events

Learnt

- What to do about weevils, birds, rats and mice (Pest & Disease Management Measures)
- The importance of planting autumn seedlings early

Weevils

- *Put dacron collars around the base of stems on tree and vine species to stop weevils from getting up to the canopy.*
- *Target spray adult weevils around the base of plants during the day and on plants at night with Pyganic insecticide as soon as they emerge.*
- *Till the soil in early spring to expose larvae.*
- *Remove host plants.*
- *Plant less susceptible crops if suitable substitutes will do.*
- *Keep plants healthy and growing strongly to overcome weevil damage.*



Next season: Djeran (April / May)