

TOPIC: "THE MICRO GARDENER"

GUEST SPEAKER : ANNE GIBSON

MALENY GARDEN CLUB MEETING : 29 MARCH, 2016

- Anne has lived in the local climate for 17 years. She has an interior design background
- Container garden design ideas maximise space using principles of design to make attractive gardens
- Thriller, Filler and Spiller idea uses edibles e.g. spring onions, basil, nasturtium, marigolds
- Use different colours and textures e.g. frilled leaf, cos, red oak lettuce; rainbow chard, kale, endive, thyme, rosemary for textural variations in a raised tank garden
- Russian kale with purple vein, pineapple sage (which is a salvia) are great for bringing in bees. Both leaves and red flowers are edible
- Use a group of pots of different shapes in same colour tone and some garden art pieces
- 'Mother of Herbs' spreads and is an insect repellent
- Put a safe pot for edibles inside an outer container e.g. old boots, handbags, cane baskets to hang or stand on pot feet
- Smallest garden is a micro garden. Sprouts with one shoot and one root are the babies of the plant world. Micro greens are the toddlers being the next stage of growth and most nutritious. Teenagers are the next stage of growth. Anne will send recipe for micro greens soil to use in e.g. discarded clear plastic lidded containers for strawberries
- Try sunflower seeds which sprout in one week. Douse with seaweed liquid fertiliser to assist germination and growth, place in warm position with plenty of light. Harvest when tops reach the roof of plastic container. More seeds will germinate after harvest
- Micro greens are full of digestive enzymes (kale and red cabbage)
- Anne believes there are five seasons in Maleny – Long Summer: December - March;
- Short Autumn: April – May; Short Winter: June – July; Short Spring: August – September;
- Spring/Summer: October - November
- Summer and short Autumn best time to plant edibles
- Winter and Spring plant in moon cycles working with nature's rhythms
- Gravitational pull of moon has influence over drawing out moisture from soil
- Waxing moon is a sliver increasing light, waning moon decreases light
- Gravitational pull of sun and moon causes seeds to germinate, shoot and grow tall
- Moonlight influences tides and moisture in plants
- High tide at full moon and new moon
- In Queensland plant sweet peas between mid-April and mid-May - NOT as in southern states on March 17, St Patrick's Day
- Anne recommended using a Moon Calendar (developed by J&R Scott of Kuranda Qld) as a planting tool; and Sub-Tropical Planting Guide (developed by Anne Gibson) for local Maleny climate (both publications are available for sale from Anne)

For further information contact Anne by email anne@themicrogardener.com phone 07 5445 9194 0407 777 049

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